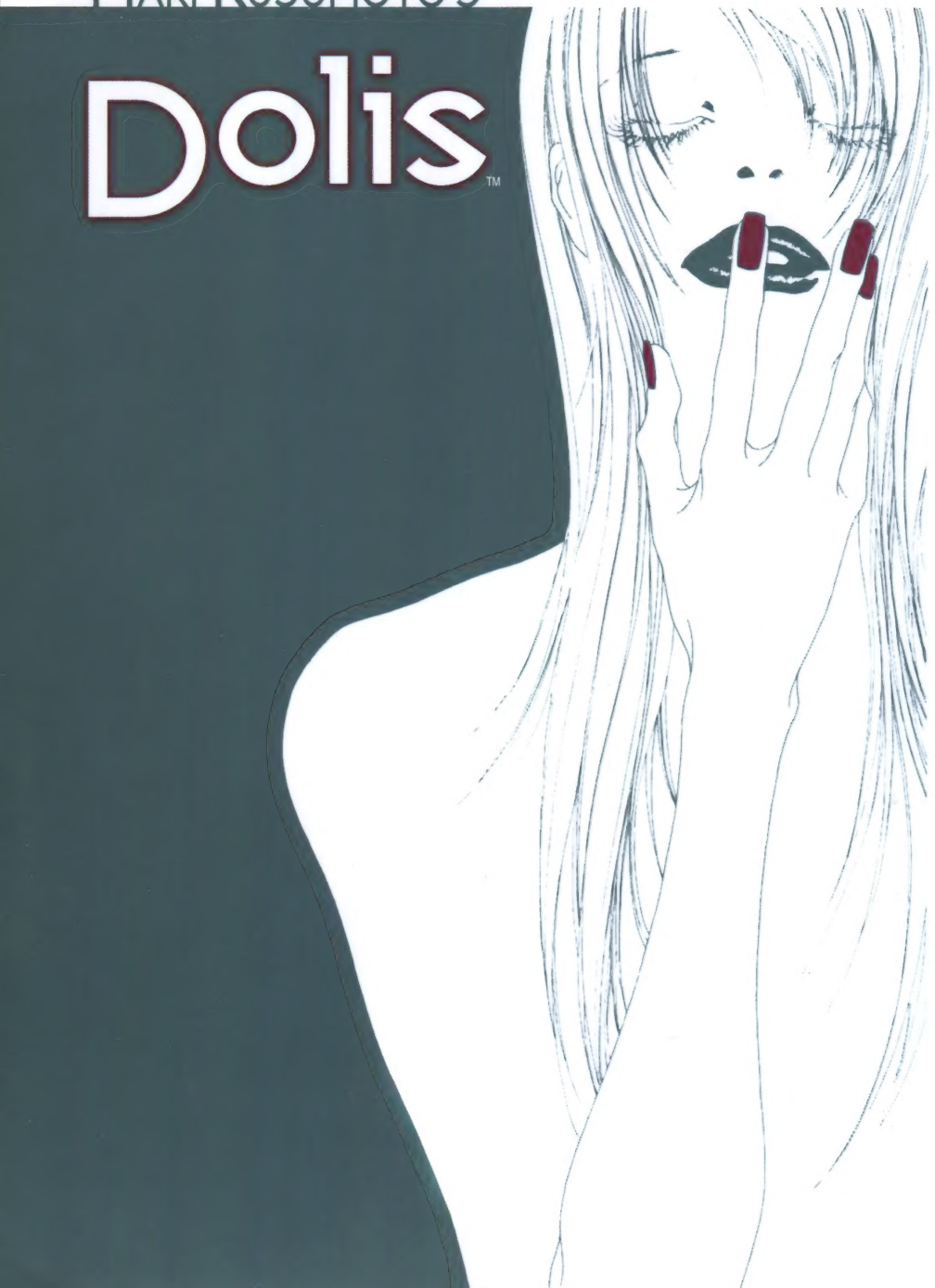
MAKI KUSUMOTO'S

Dolis™



TOKYOPOP®

Maki Kusumoto

Dolis

TOKYOPOP®

Manga
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Dolis™

When Kishi falls head-over-heels in love with Mitsu, he soon discovers another side to this seemingly flawless woman. As the drama and romance between Mitsu and Kishi unfolds towards an unforgettable climax, the couple takes an extraordinary excursion into the uncharted arena where desire and romance confront hope and survival.

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OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

DRAMA

Dolis

DOLIS

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Dolls

Vol. 1

Created By Maki Kusumoto

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

ALAS, I MUST SUFFOCATE TO DEATH BEFORE LONG.

(OR, IF I'M LUCKY, I COULD MANAGE TO GO MENTAL.)

AH, DOLIS!

LOOK, IT'S COMING UP TO MY NECK.
(I CANNOT REMEMBER HOW TO BREATHE.)

LOOK, I'M BEING CONTAMINATED BY DOLIS FROM TOP TO TOE.
(GOD, GOD, WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR THIS?)

IT'S DOLIS--A FATAL DOSE!

Dolis #1

Dolis

MITSU WAS MODELING FOR A PAINTING.

SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL GRADUATE STUDENT.

HER VEINS WERE FAINTLY VISIBLE UNDERNEATH HER PALE SKIN.

AT TIMES, SHE LOOKED ONLY 17 OR SO.

SHE WAS WAITING FOR SOMETHING.

I ADORED HER ANKLES.

PLEASE, TAKE A BREAK. WE'LL TAKE OVER THE CASH REGISTERS.

HEY, WHAT'S WITH YOUR FACE? GET IN A FIGHT OR WHAT?
YEAH...
SOME-THING TO DO WITH YOUR BAND?
WELL...
YOU KNOW... OUR DRUMMER WANTED TO QUIT THE BAND. THE REST OF US WERE NOT PLEASED, SO WE GOT INTO A FISTFIGHT.
THEN, 'CAUSE I WAS TOTALLY PISSED OFF, I WAS THE ONE WHO ENDED UP QUITTING.
Oh, dear. They sacked you.
No way! That's insulting.
ANYWAY, SINCE I HAVE NO MATES ANY-MORE...
...I JUST DECIDED TO FOCUS ON MAKING SOME CASH HERE FOR THE TIME BEING.
WELL... IN BRIEF, YOU'RE HAVING A HARD TIME ANYWAY.
Ha ha.

HEY, MITSU...

...YOU MIGHT THINK IT'S SILLY AND LAUGH AT ME...

...BUT I LITERALLY SAW A STRING OF FATE.

THE TENTACLE-LIKE STRING...

...REACHING OUT TOWARD ME LIKE A CREATURE...

...COMING FROM YOUR NARROW ANKLE...

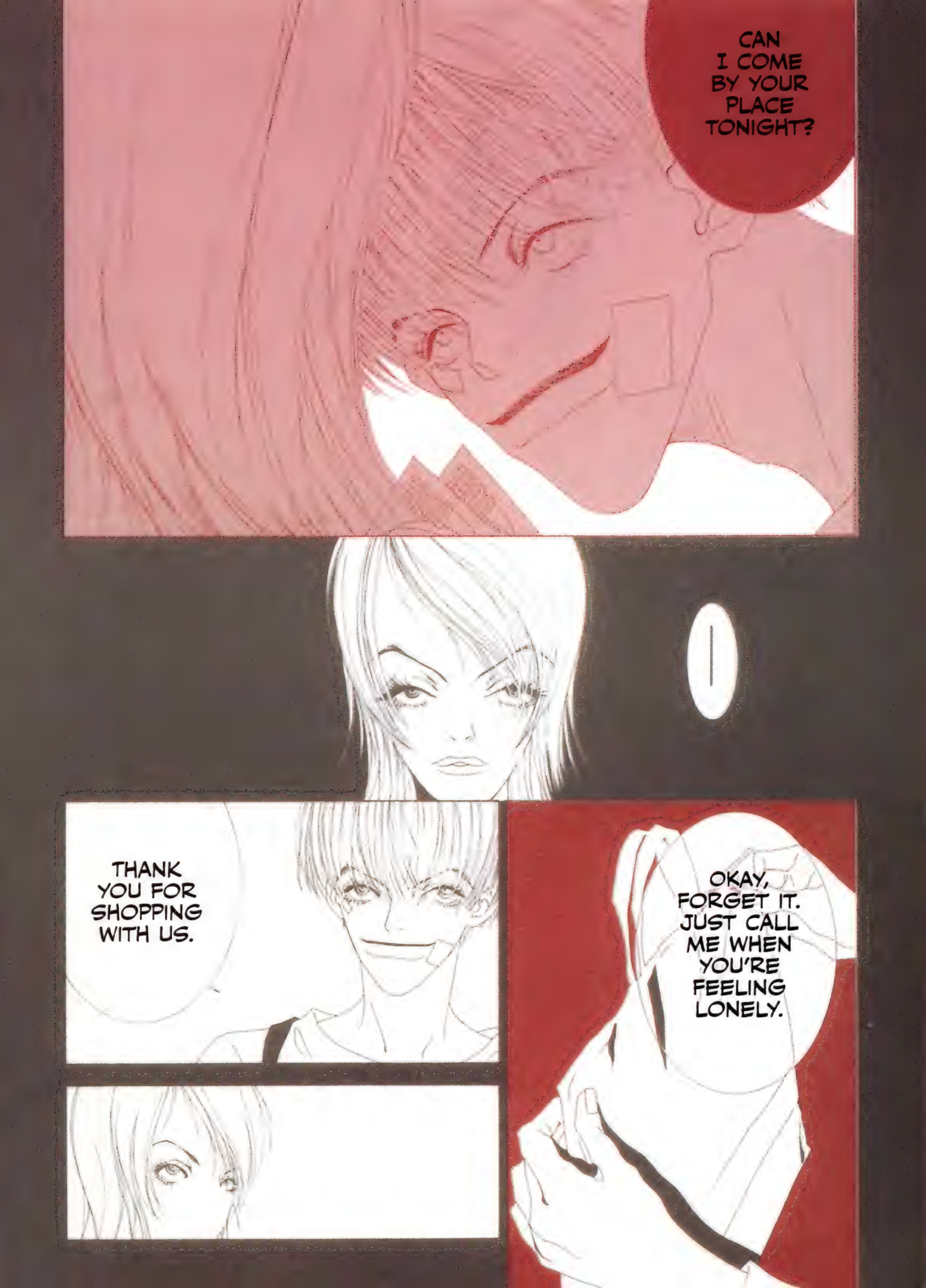
...TRYING TO CAPTURE ME.

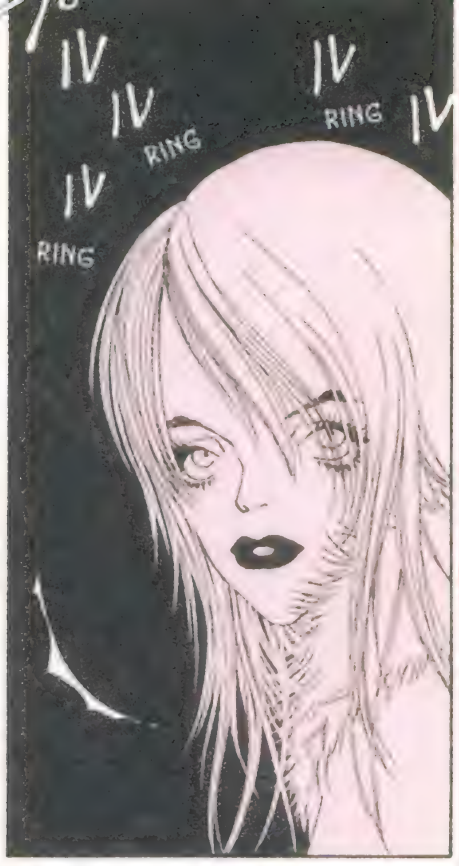
#1 END

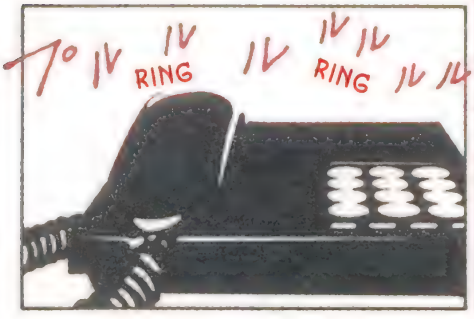
Dolis #2

THAT WILL BE 7,957 YEN INCLUDING TAX.
HEY...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

COULD I HAVE YOUR PHONE NUMBER?
.....
.....


CAN I COME BY YOUR PLACE TONIGHT?
I
THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING WITH US.
OKAY, FORGET IT. JUST CALL ME WHEN YOU'RE FEELING LONELY.

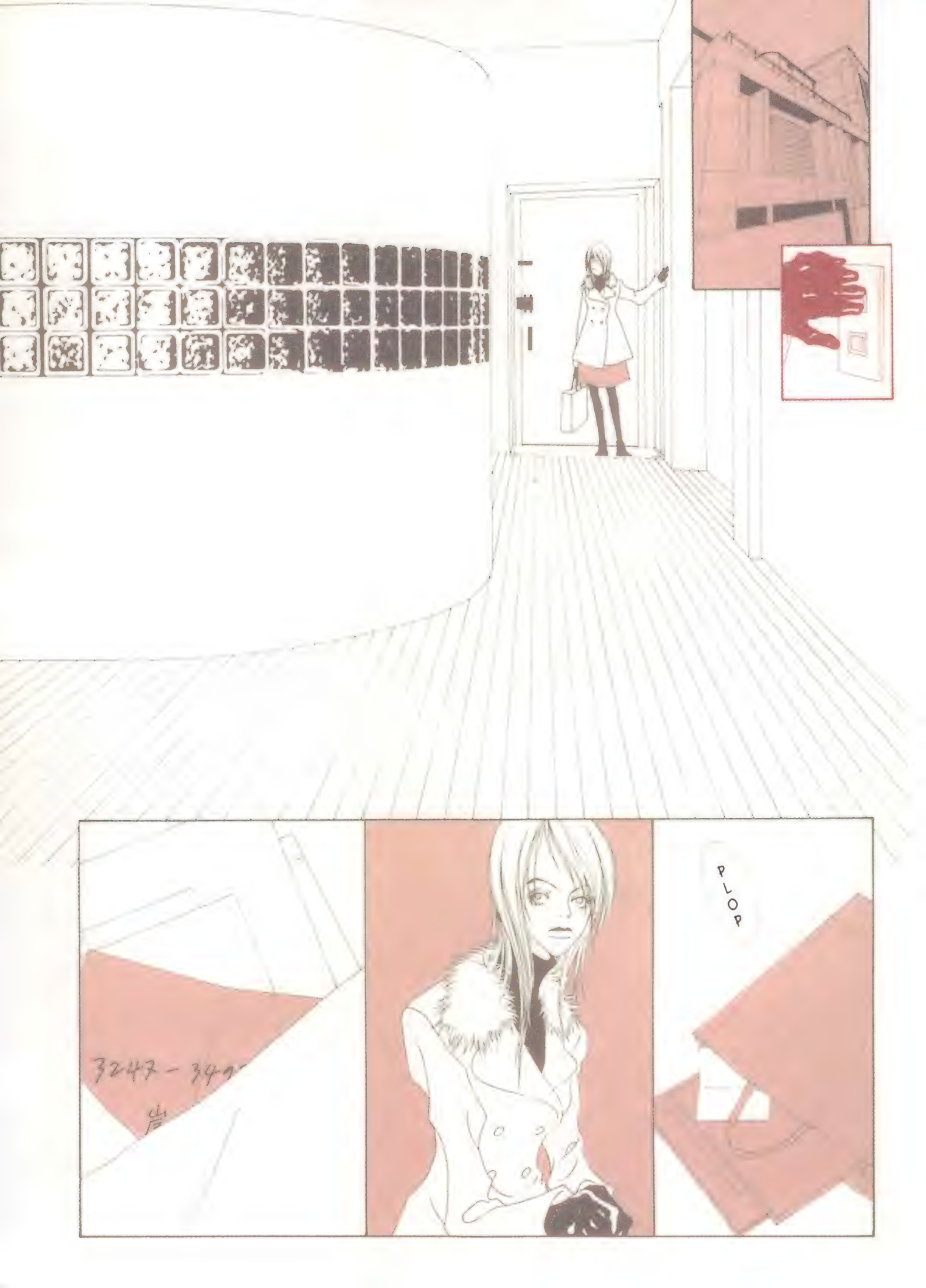

RING
RING
RING
RING


RING
RING

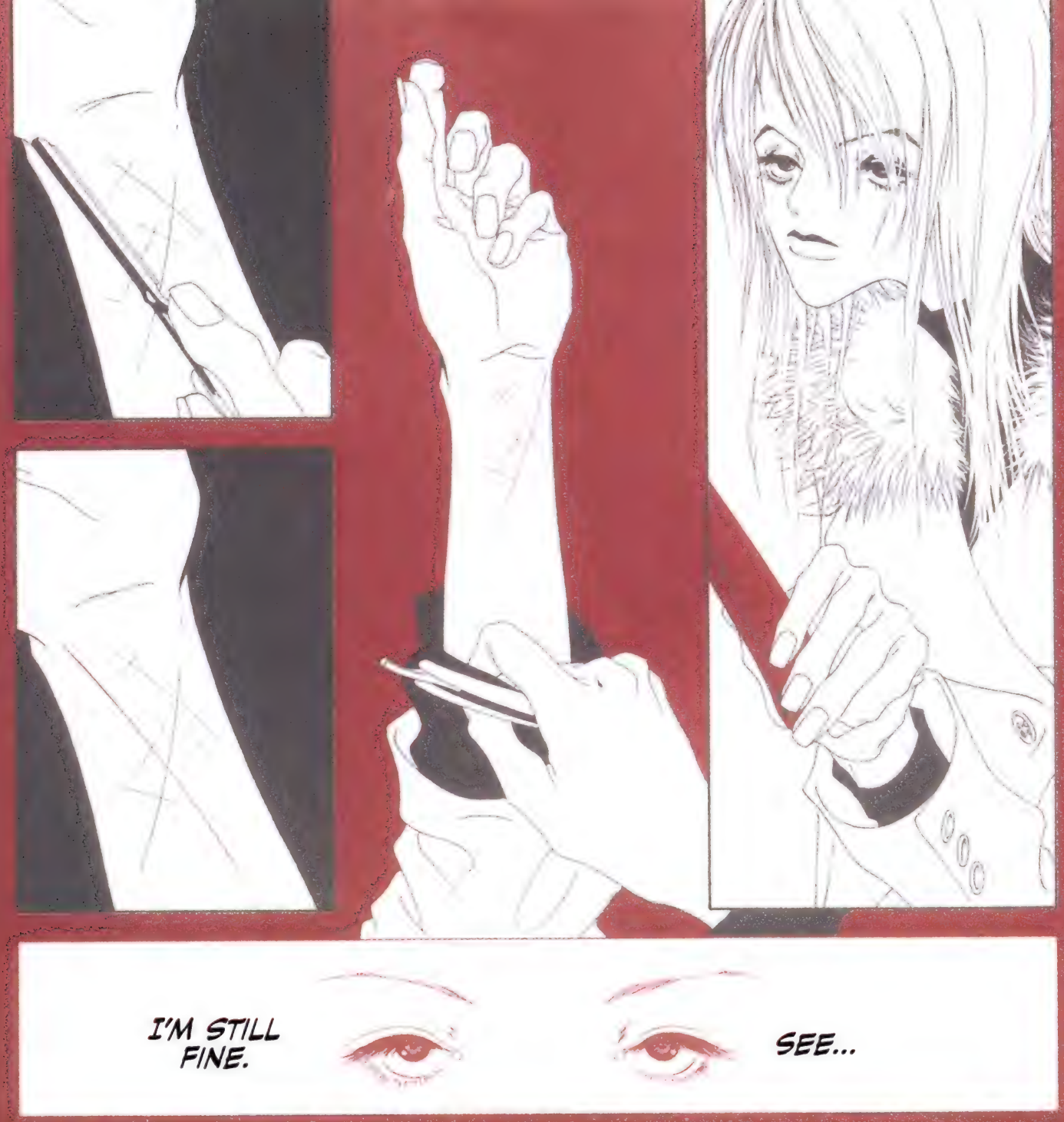
CRUMPLE

HELLO?

...YES.


PLOP

...NO.
YES... GOOD NIGHT.
I UNDER-STAND.
...YES.
.....
...YES.



I'M STILL FINE.

SEE...

I CAN FEEL PAIN.

AND I'M NOT GOING TO CUT MYSELF ANY DEEPER THAN THIS.

I'M SICKENINGLY SANE.

#2 END

Dolis #3

RING, RING

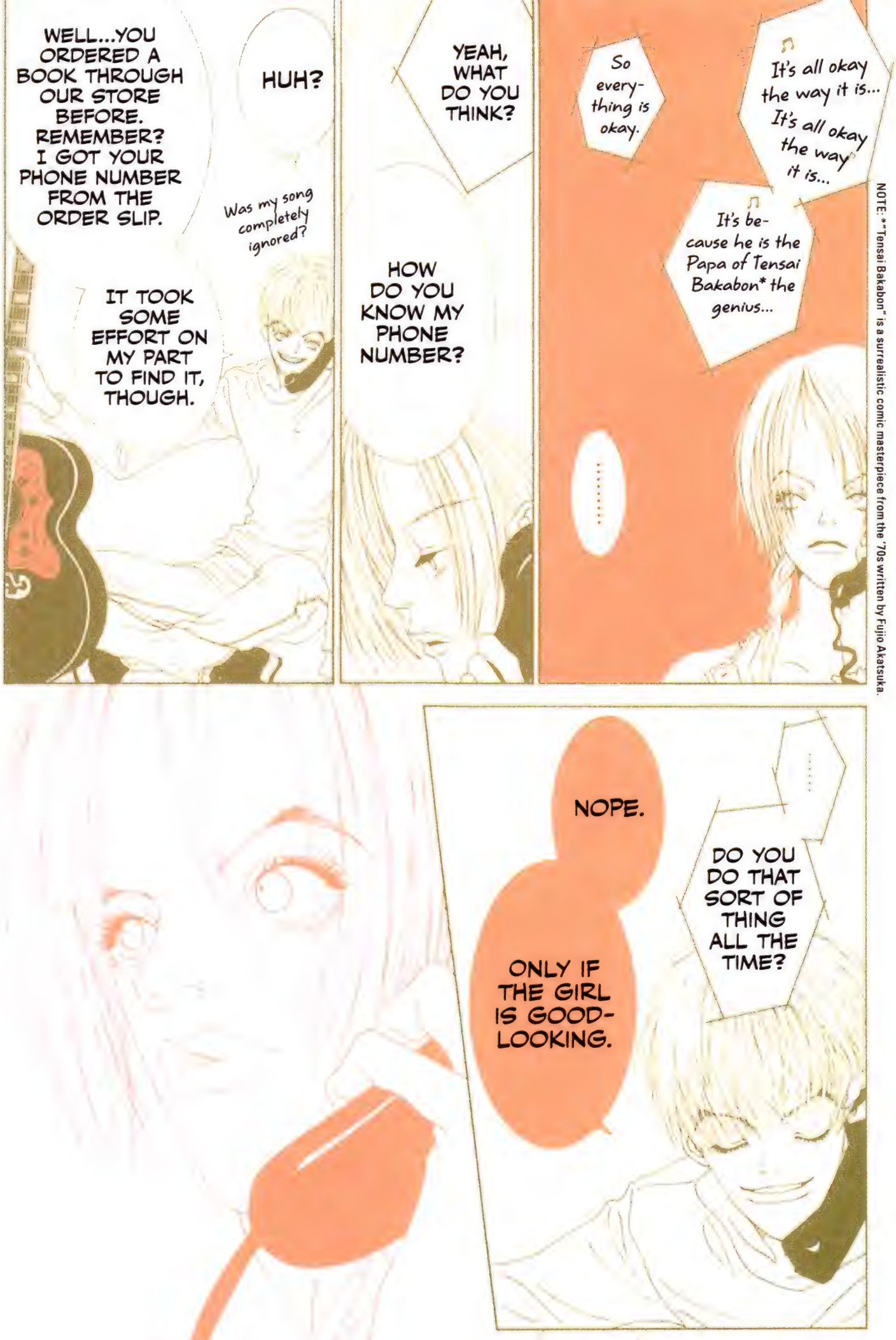
RING, RING

RING, RING

RING, RING
RING, RING
RING, RING
RING, RING
RING, RING
RING, RING
HELLO?

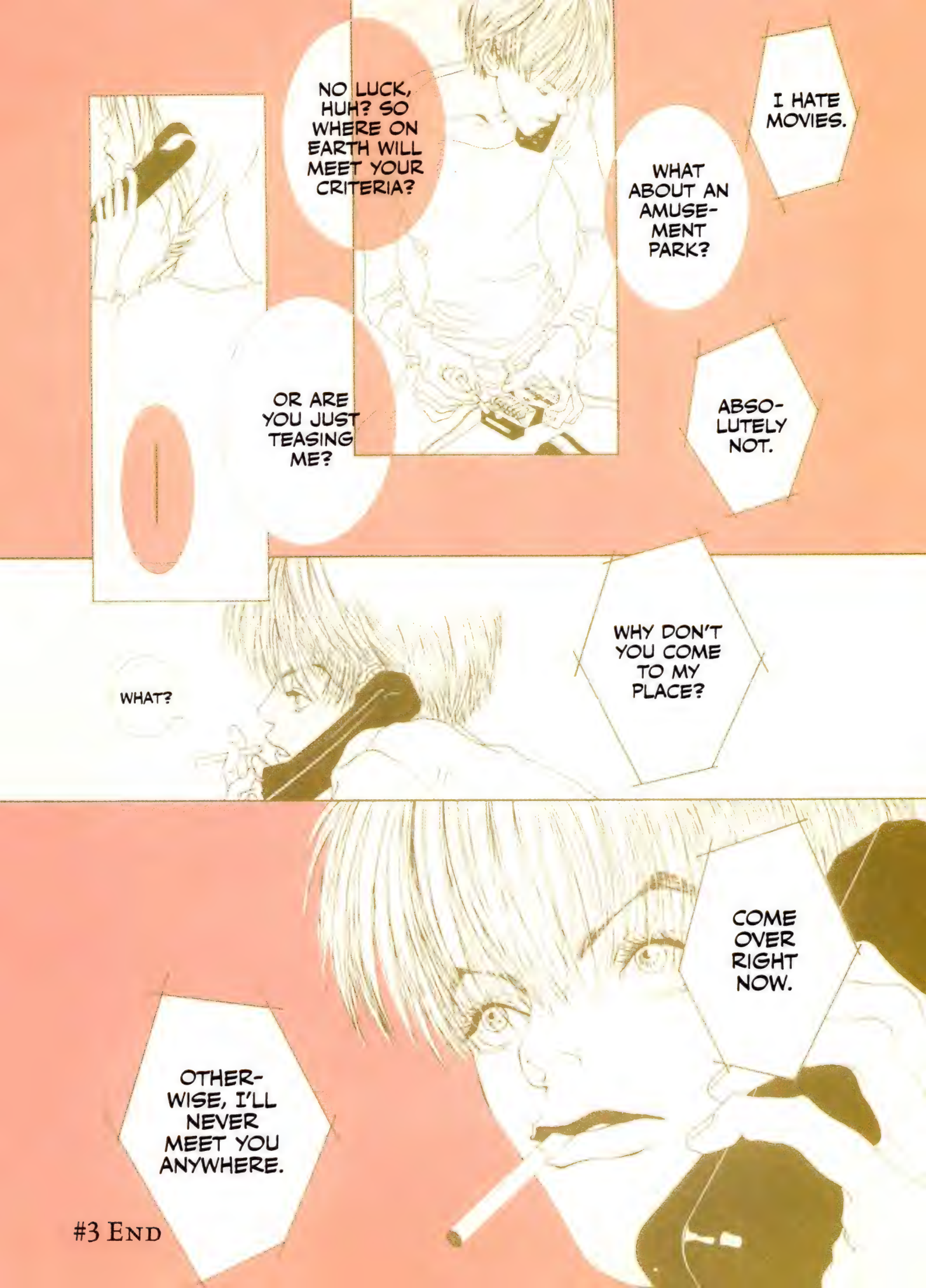
WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME?
I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME WHEN YOU'RE LONELY.
WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT? HEY... WH--
THAT'S RIGHT. THE BOOKSTORE. I'LL PLAY THE GUITAR FOR YOU, AS A GREETING.
OH.
FROM THE BOOK-STORE ...?
When Papa prays...
The pickled plum in the big blue sky...
.....
Tari rari raaa... Hello, hellooo... Hello, hellooo...


WELL...YOU ORDERED A BOOK THROUGH OUR STORE BEFORE. REMEMBER? I GOT YOUR PHONE NUMBER FROM THE ORDER SLIP.
HUH?
Was my song completely ignored?
IT TOOK SOME EFFORT ON MY PART TO FIND IT, THOUGH.
YEAH, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY PHONE NUMBER?
So everything is okay.
♫ It's all okay the way it is... It's all okay the way it is...
♫ It's because he is the Papa of Tensai Bakabon* the genius...
.....
NOPE.
ONLY IF THE GIRL IS GOOD-LOOKING.
.....
DO YOU DO THAT SORT OF THING ALL THE TIME?

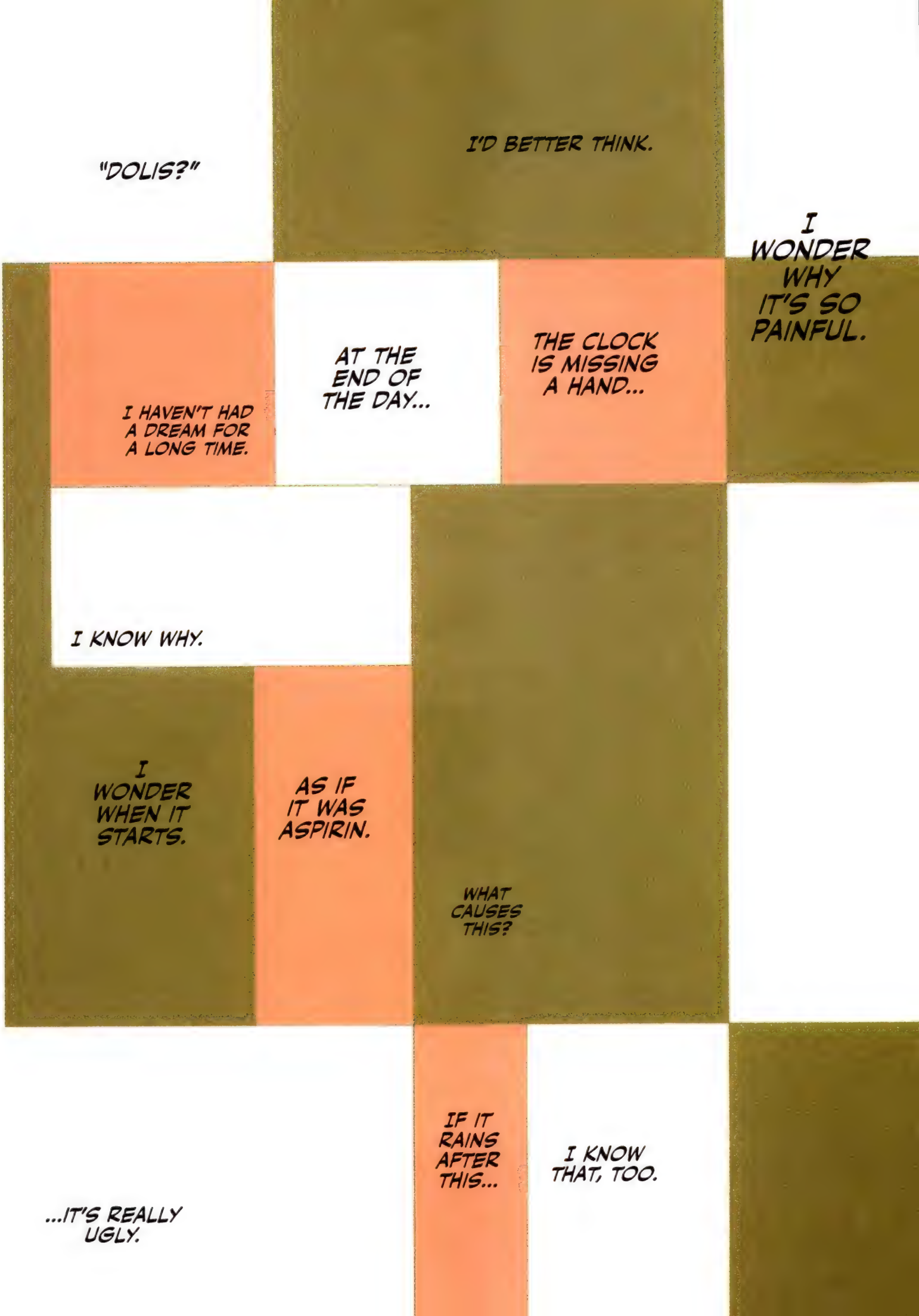
NOTE: *"Tensai Bakabon" is a surrealistic comic masterpiece from the '70s written by Fujio Akatsuka.

HELLO?
Are you listening?
GOOD-LOOKING?
AM I?
WHERE?
.....
ANYWAY, I DON'T HAVE TO WORK ON SUNDAY. WANNA GO OUT ON A DATE?
It's a shame beautiful girls are always too fussy.
HUH...?
I SHOULD HAVE USED THE WORD "GORGEOUS" INSTEAD OF "GOOD-LOOKING"?
AH... HOW ABOUT THE CINEMA?
WHERE...? DOES IT MATTER WHERE?


NO LUCK, HUH? SO WHERE ON EARTH WILL MEET YOUR CRITERIA?
I HATE MOVIES.
WHAT ABOUT AN AMUSE-MENT PARK?
OR ARE YOU JUST TEASING ME?
ABSO-LUTELY NOT.
WHAT?
WHY DON'T YOU COME TO MY PLACE?
COME OVER RIGHT NOW.
OTHER-WISE, I'LL NEVER MEET YOU ANYWHERE.

#3 End

Dolis #4


"DOLIS?"
I'D BETTER THINK.
I WONDER WHY IT'S SO PAINFUL.
I HAVEN'T HAD A DREAM FOR A LONG TIME.
AT THE END OF THE DAY...
THE CLOCK IS MISSING A HAND...
I KNOW WHY.
I WONDER WHEN IT STARTS.
AS IF IT WAS ASPIRIN.
WHAT CAUSES THIS?
IF IT RAINS AFTER THIS...
I KNOW THAT, TOO.
...IT'S REALLY UGLY.

'CAUSE, FROM THE START, THE ANSWER WAS...

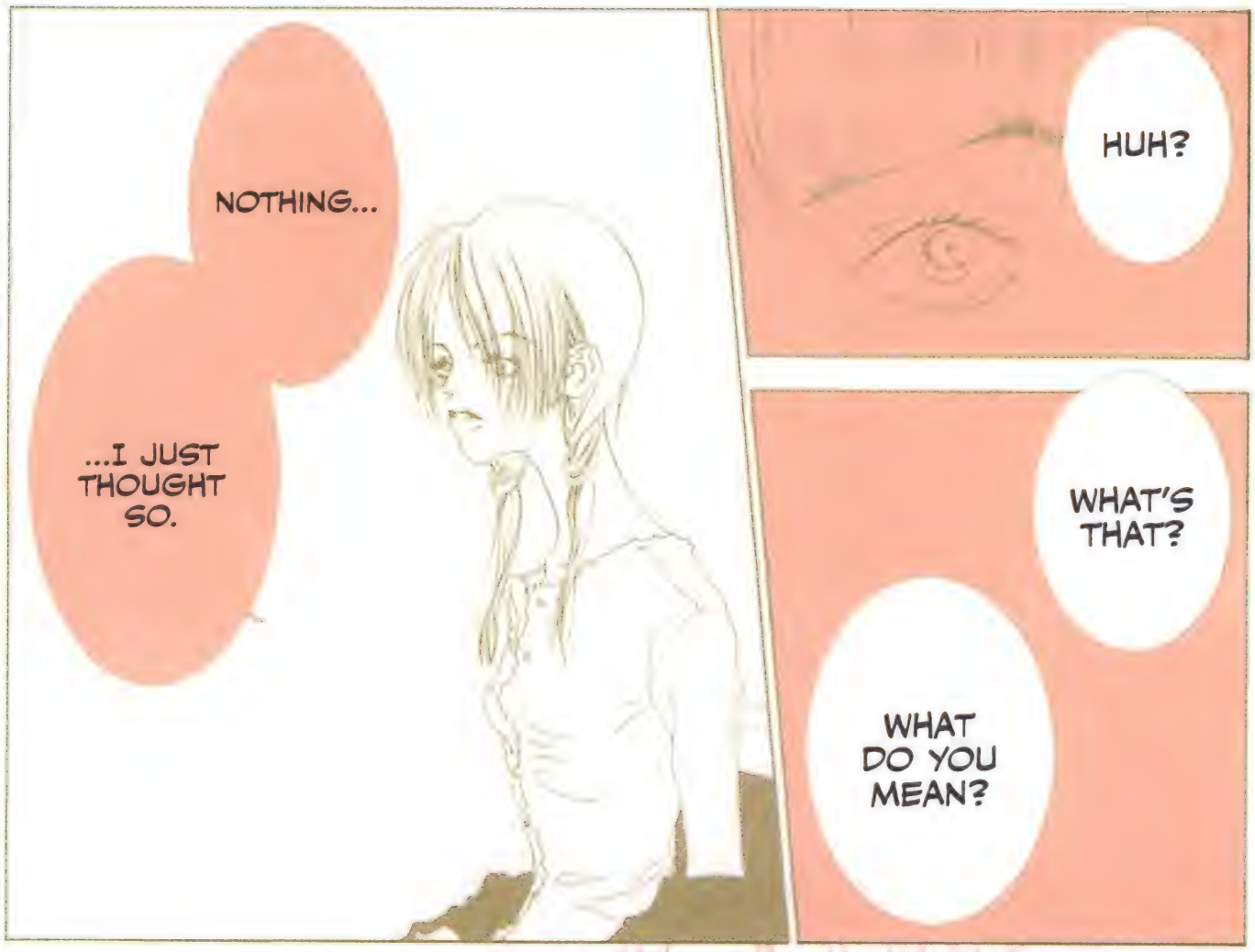
C'MON, I'VE GOT TO THINK HARDER.

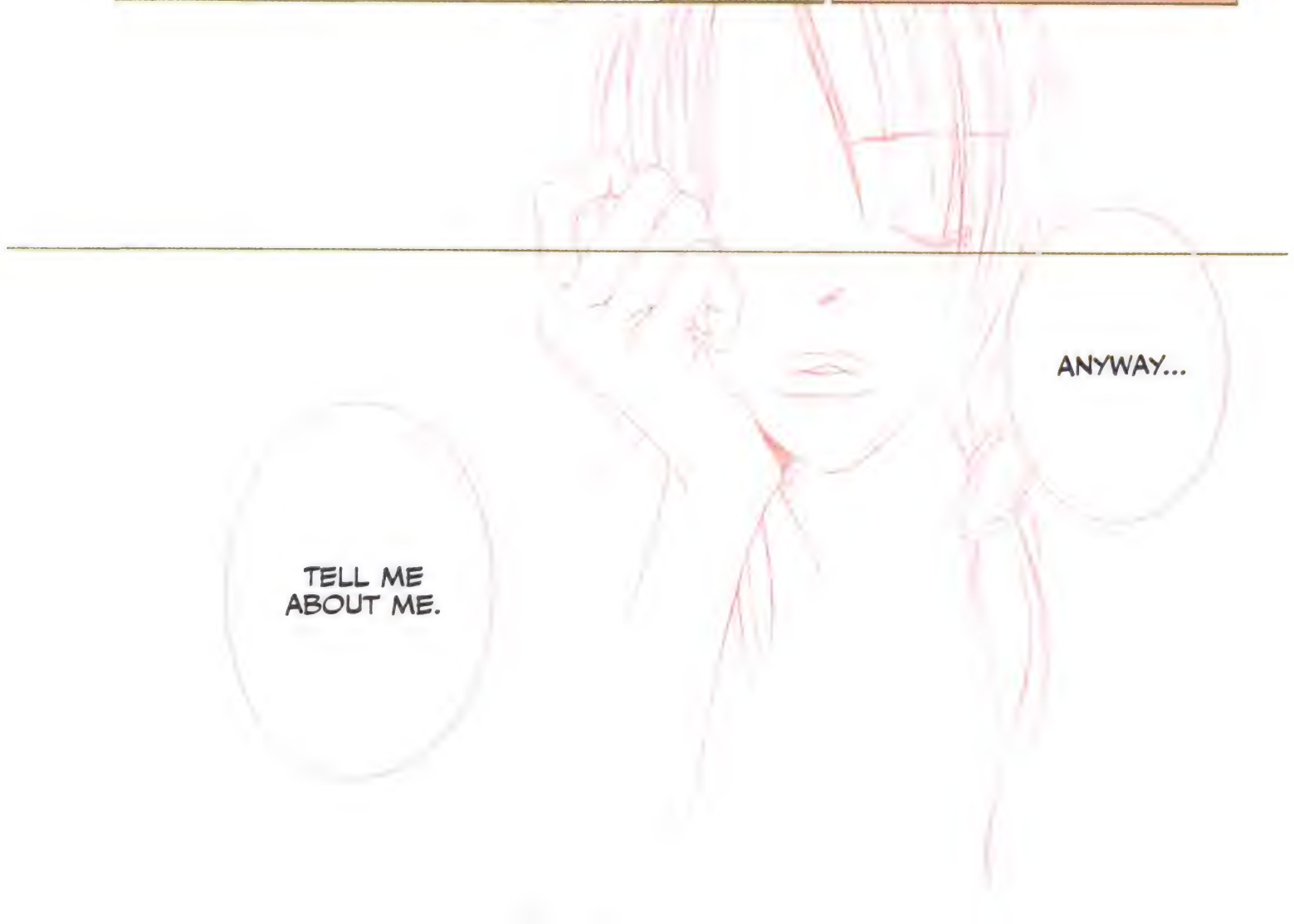
IF I REALLY THINK...

...I MUST KNOW THE ANSWER.

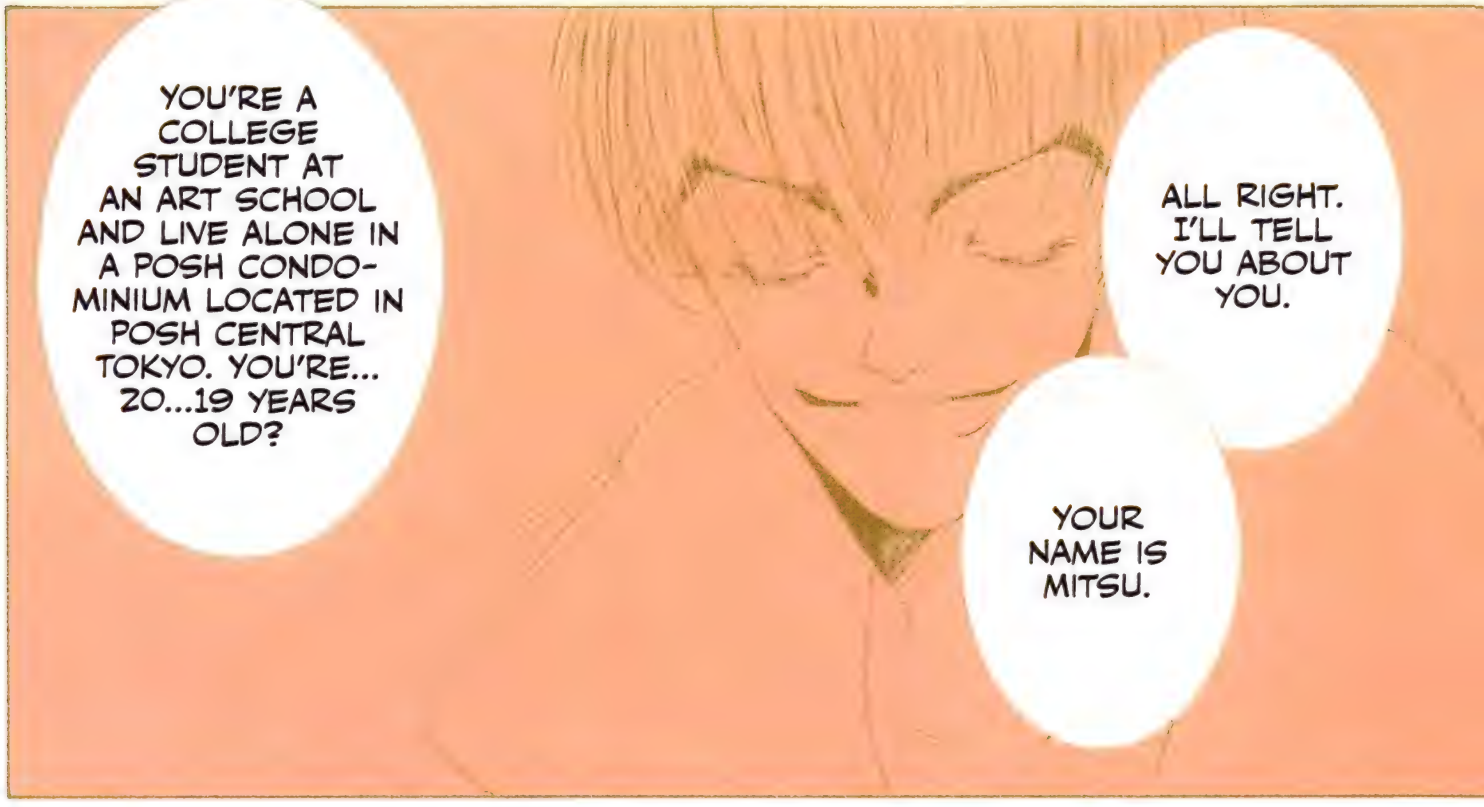
WHAT DID YOU SAY ABOUT ASPIRIN?

IS THAT HOW YOU TALK TO A MAN WHO'D RUSH OVER ON A MOTORCYCLE IN THE POURING RAIN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
Can't you even offer me a cup of tea?
SNAP!
IT'S NOTHING. NO POINT IN EXPLAINING IT TO YOU.
...I THOUGHT YOU LIKED THIS SORT OF THING.
OH...

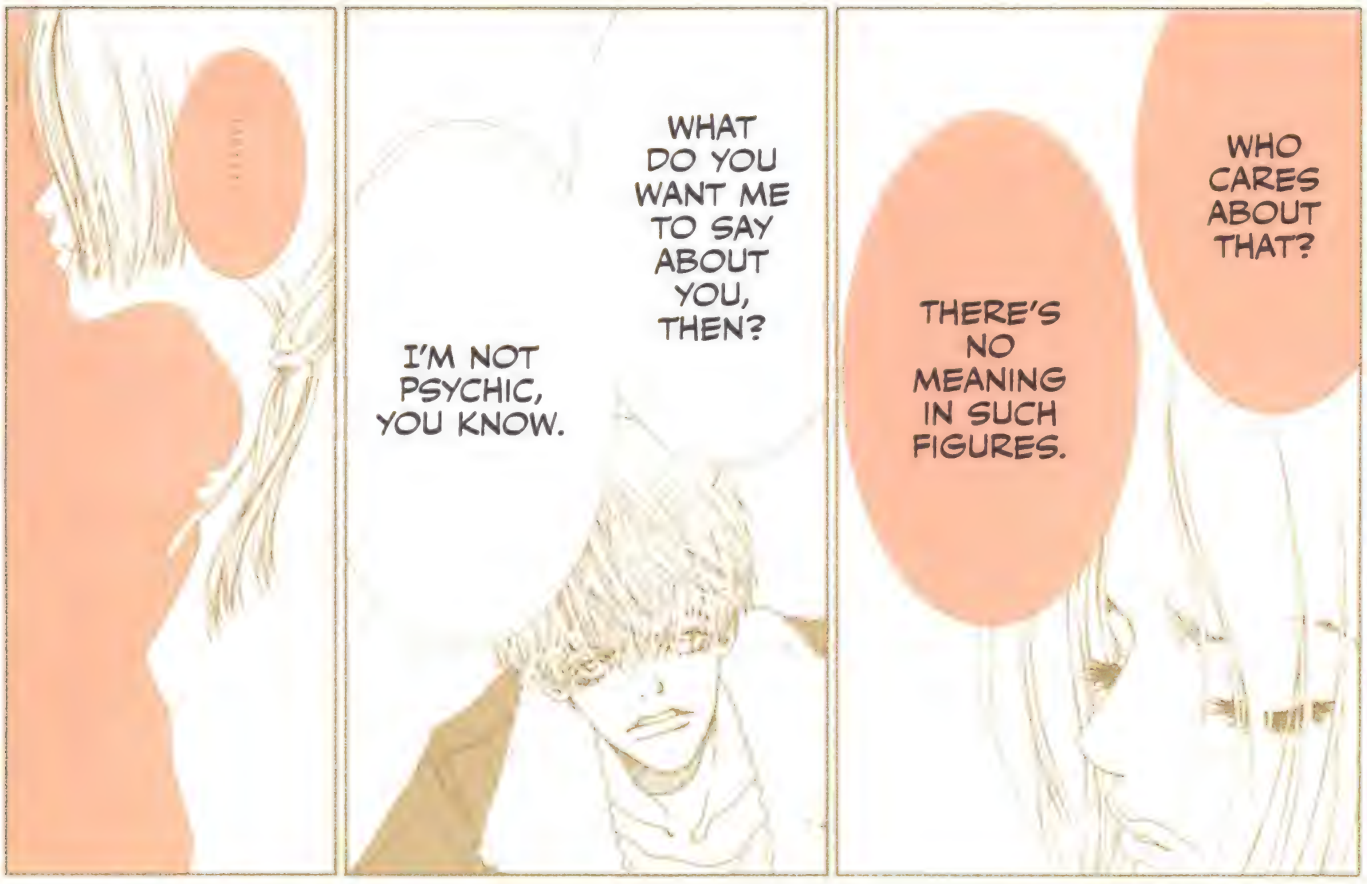

NOTHING...
...I JUST THOUGHT SO.
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


ANYWAY...
TELL ME ABOUT ME.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF HEARING ABOUT YOU?
The point? Don't know...
ABOUT YOU?
NOT ABOUT ME?

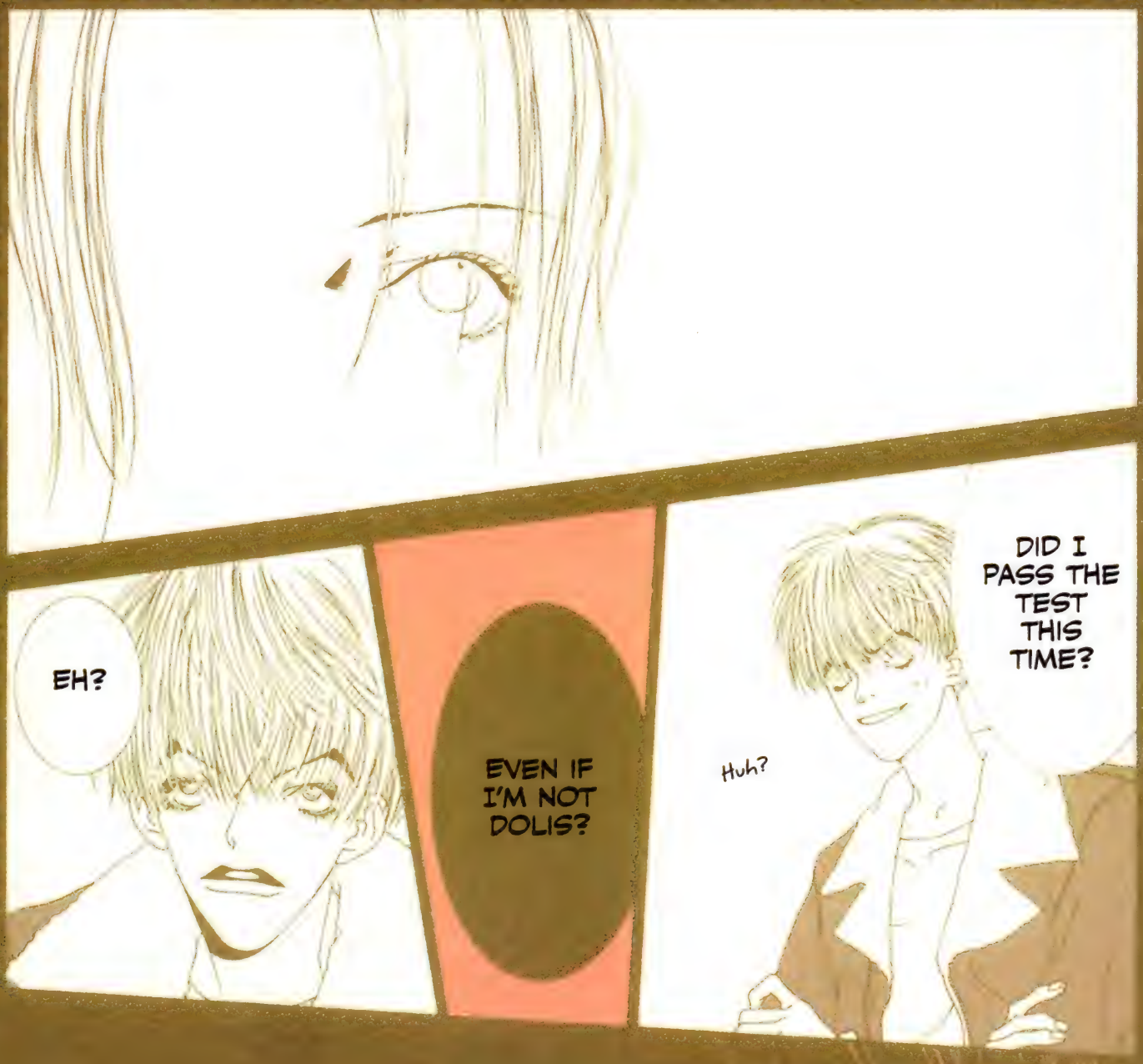

YOU'RE A COLLEGE STUDENT AT AN ART SCHOOL AND LIVE ALONE IN A POSH CONDO-MINIUM LOCATED IN POSH CENTRAL TOKYO. YOU'RE... 20...19 YEARS OLD?
ALL RIGHT. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT YOU.
YOUR NAME IS MITSU.

AND...LEMME SEE...YOU'RE 5'4" AND 95 POUNDS. YOUR MEASUREMENTS MUST BE SOMETHING LIKE 32-22-32. NO, 30 PROBABLY.
I'm 25. I guess you don't care anyway, though.
REALLY? YOU'RE A LOT OLDER THAN I THOUGHT. HA HA!
I'M NOT AN ART SCHOOL STUDENT. I'M GETTING A MASTERS DEGREE IN AESTHETICS. I'M 23.


.....
I'M NOT PSYCHIC, YOU KNOW.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY ABOUT YOU, THEN?
THERE'S NO MEANING IN SUCH FIGURES.
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?

.....

YOU'RE UNCOMPRO-MISING, SELFISH AND STAND-OFFISH...A HIGH-MAINTENANCE PRINCESS.
PALE, SKINNY, DELICATE AND FRAGILE. SUPPOSEDLY INTELLIGENT.
I PRACTICALLY FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.



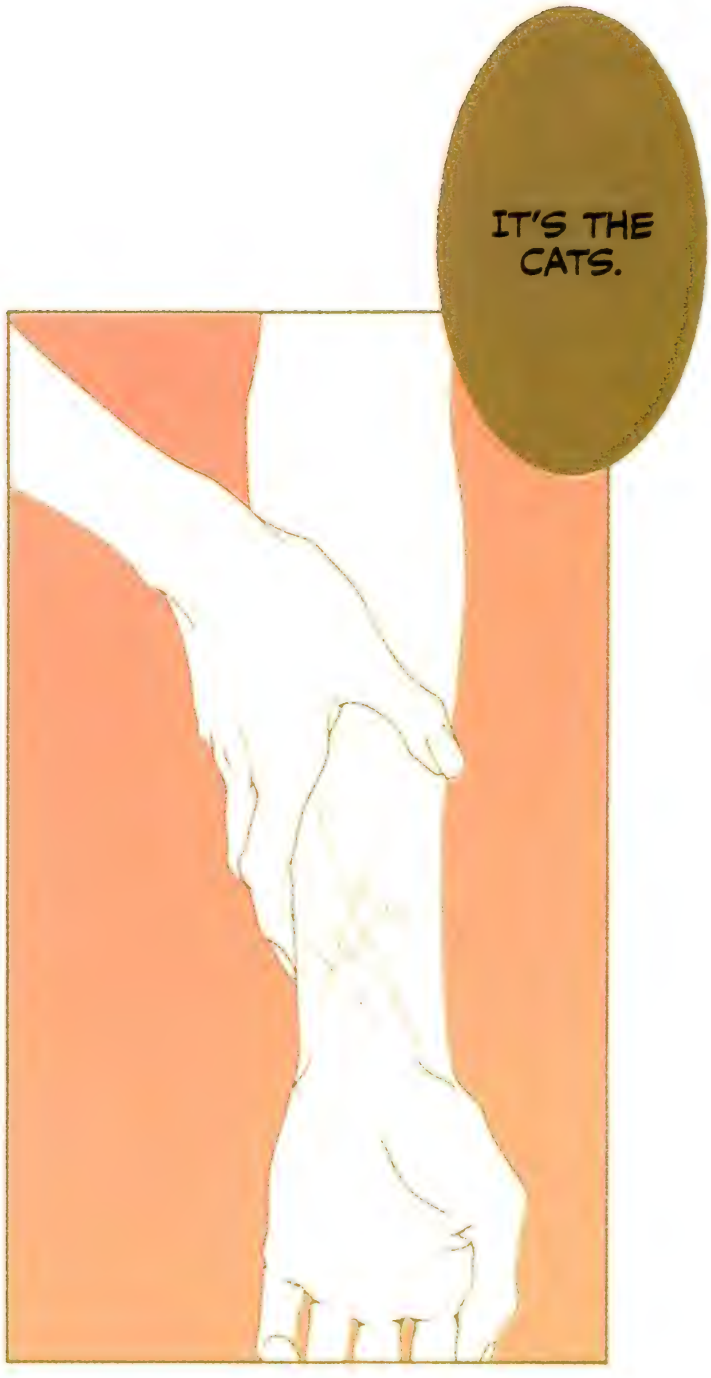
AT THAT TIME...

...I DIDN'T SEE WHAT THAT MEANT...

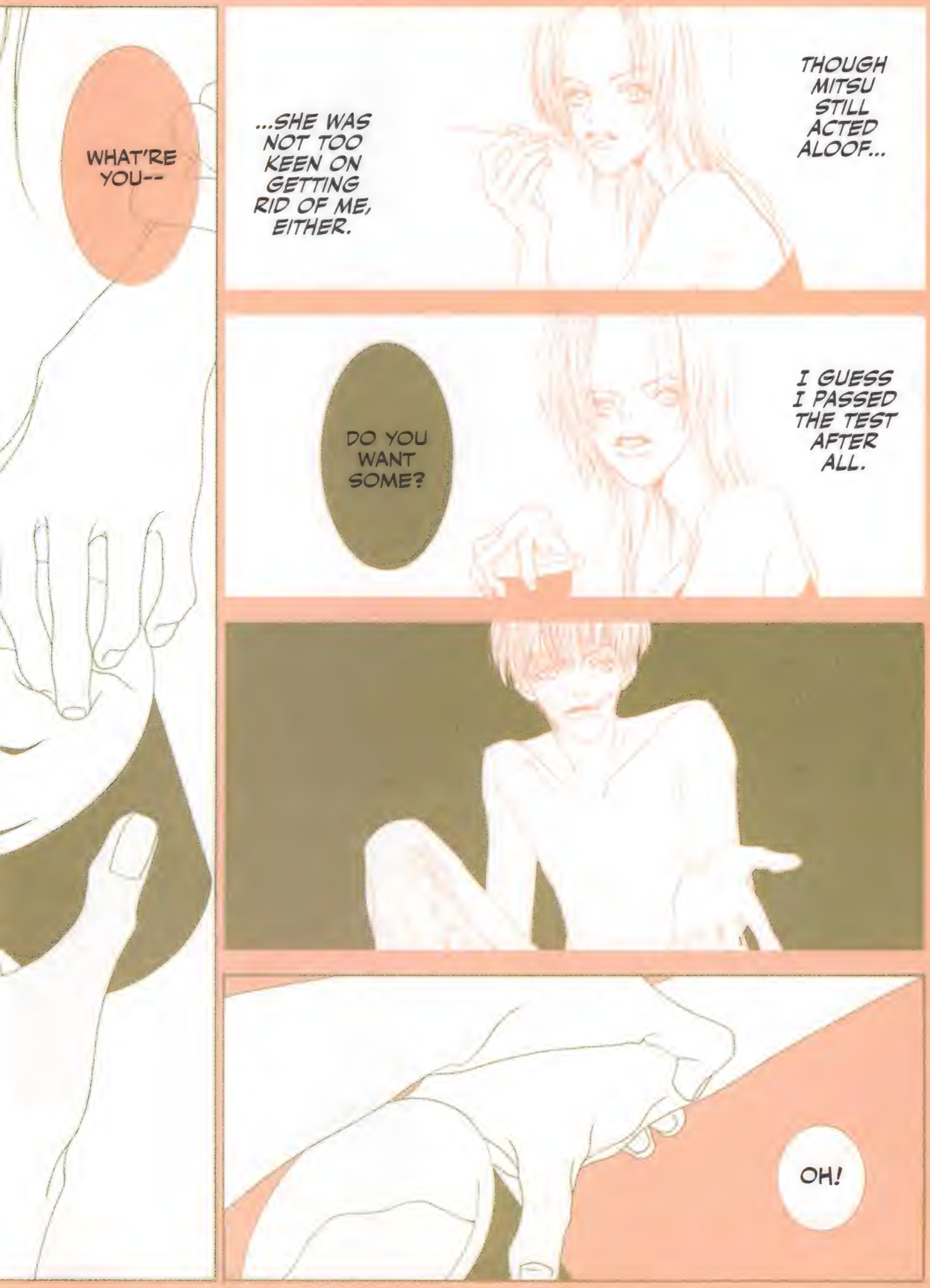
...NOR DID I NOTICE THE SCARS ON HER WRIST.

#4 End

Dolis #5

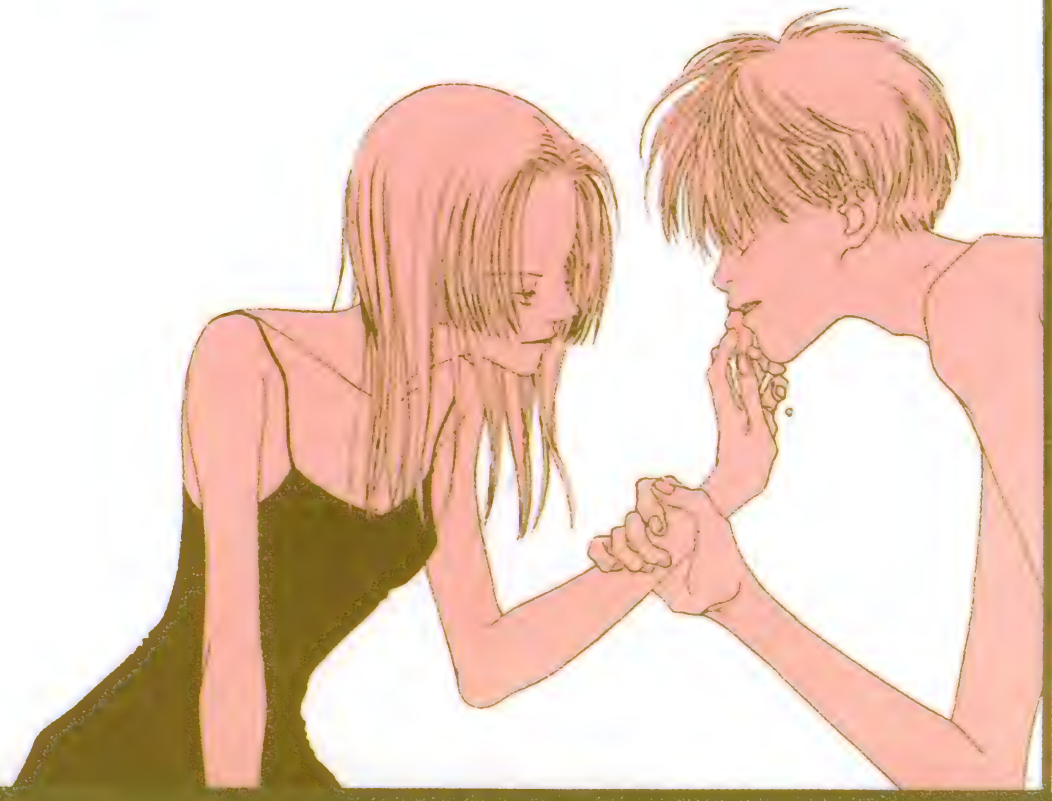

IT'S THE CATS.

FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS, I STAYED WITH MITSU, FEELING COMPLETELY IMMERSED IN HER.


WHAT'RE YOU--
...SHE WAS NOT TOO KEEN ON GETTING RID OF ME, EITHER.
THOUGH MITSU STILL ACTED ALOOF...
DO YOU WANT SOME?
I GUESS I PASSED THE TEST AFTER ALL.
OH!

THIS ROOM IS AIR-CONDITIONED PERFECTLY...

HA.



I CAN ONLY FEEL MITSU, AND THE REST OF MY SENSES ARE PARA-LYZED.

...OR WHAT DAY IT IS OR WHAT THE WEATHER IS LIKE OUTSIDE.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT IS NIGHT, MORNING OR MIDDAY...

FALSE TEMPERATURE...
FALSE HUMIDITY...
FALSE TIME...

MITSU IS
ALL THAT
IS REAL.

I REWIND THIS MEMORY AGAIN AND AGAIN...

...SO THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET IT.

I'LL STICK IT IN MY CELLS, ORGANS AND ANYWHERE WHATSOEVER...

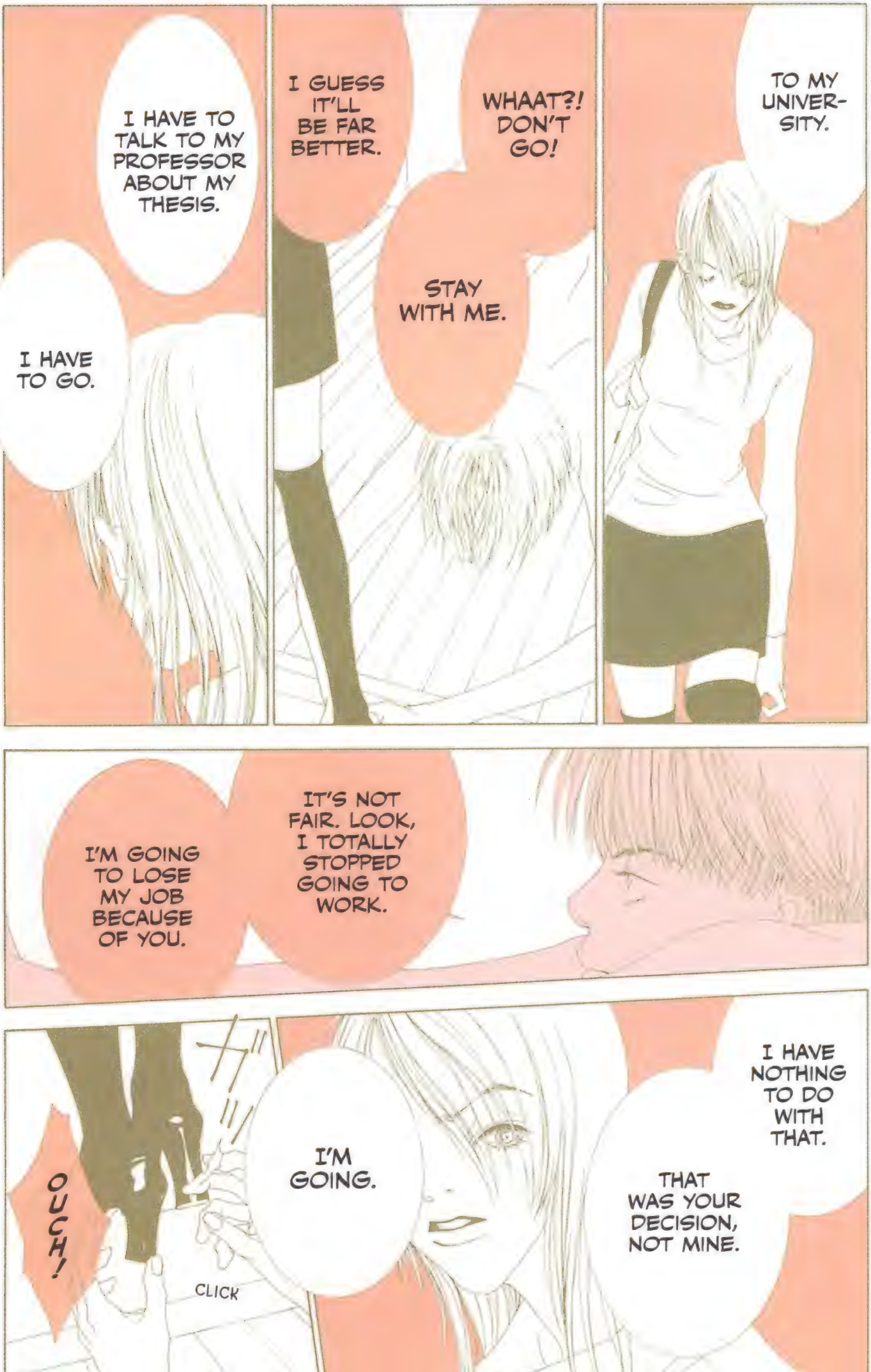
...SO THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO FORGET HER...

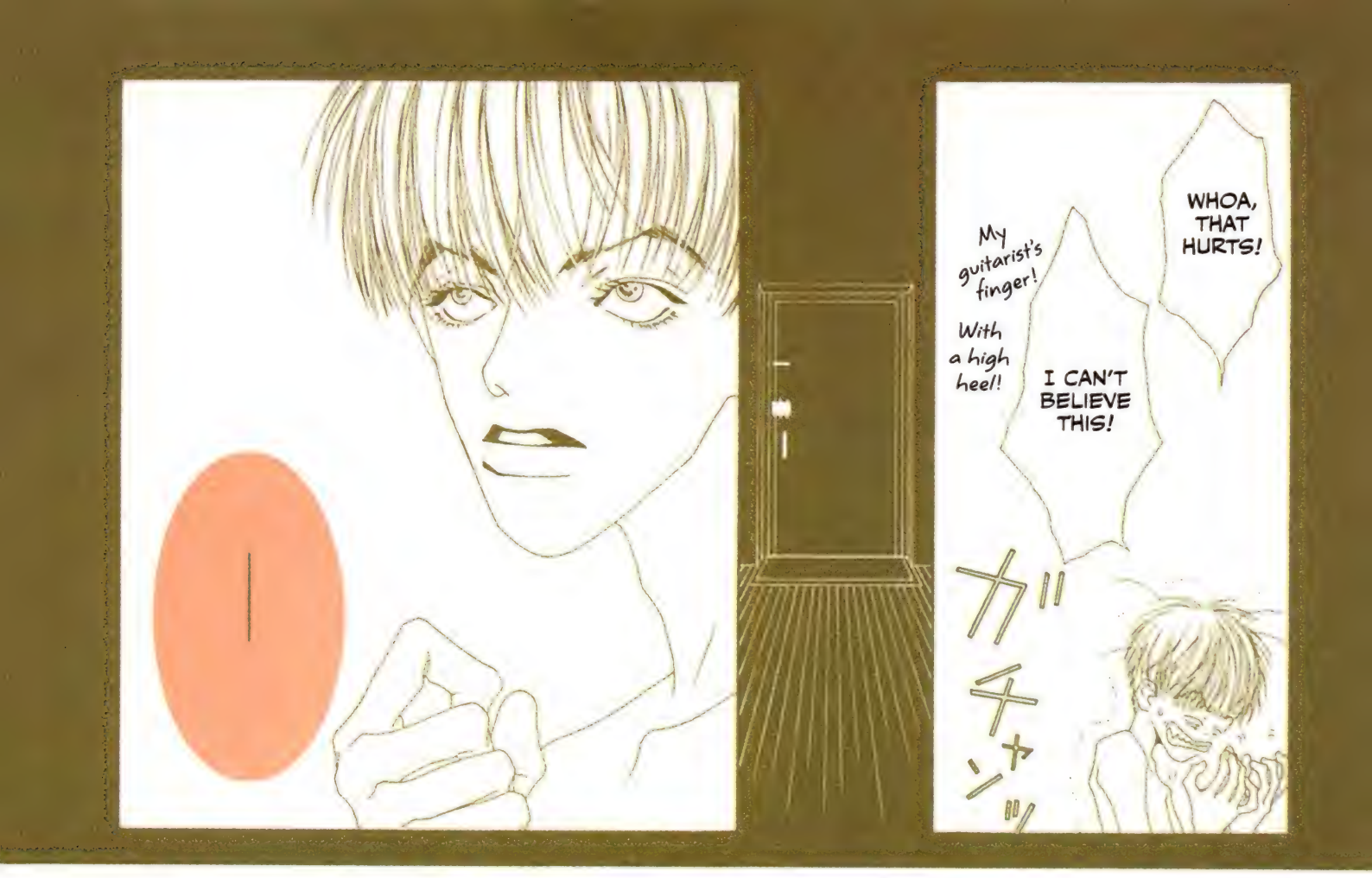
...EVEN IF THE DAY COMES WHEN I WISH TO ERASE HER COMPLETELY FROM MY MEMORY.

#5 End

Dolis #6

HEY.
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

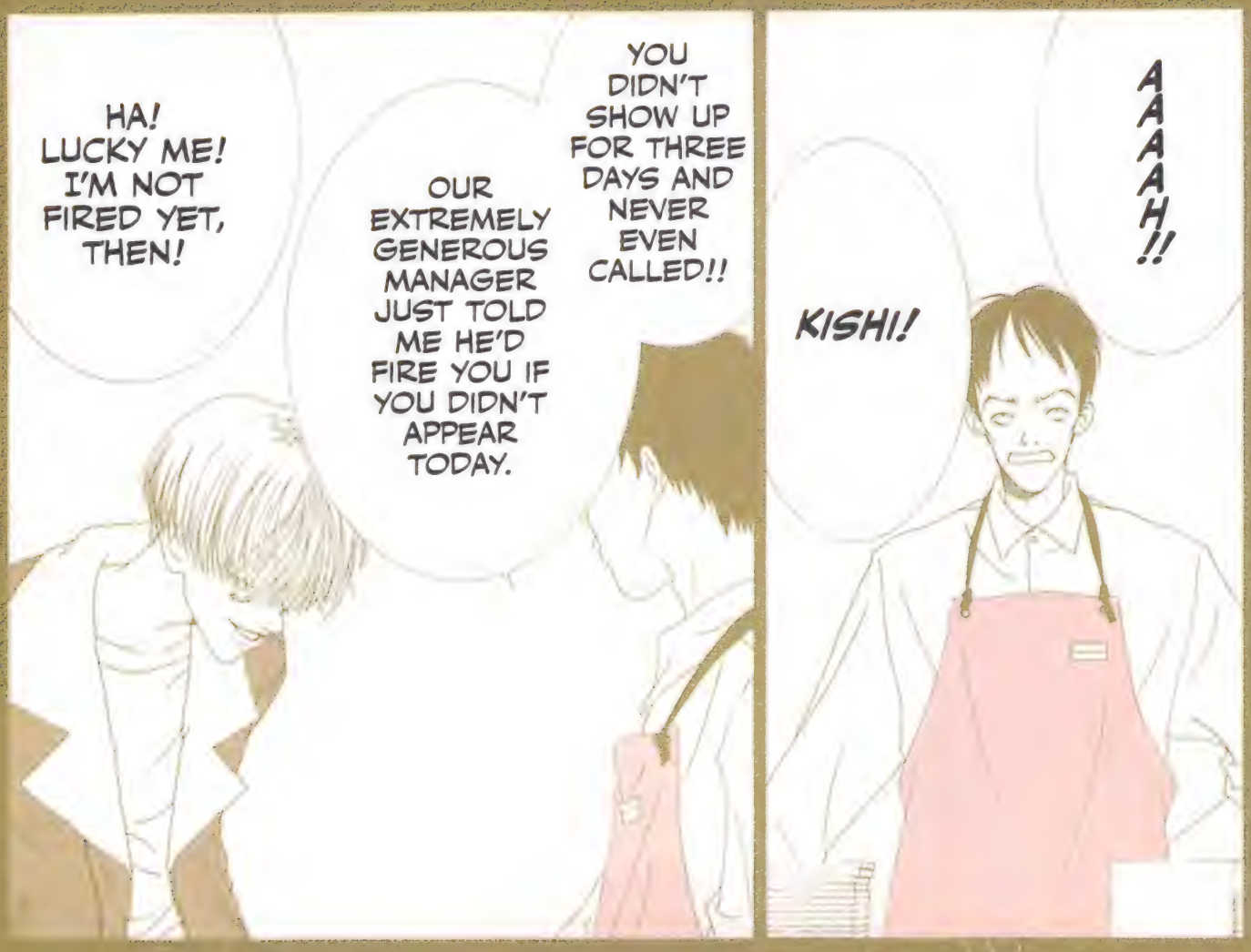

I HAVE TO TALK TO MY PROFESSOR ABOUT MY THESIS.
I HAVE TO GO.
I GUESS IT'LL BE FAR BETTER.
WHAAT?! DON'T GO!
STAY WITH ME.
TO MY UNIVER-SITY.
I'M GOING TO LOSE MY JOB BECAUSE OF YOU.
IT'S NOT FAIR. LOOK, I TOTALLY STOPPED GOING TO WORK.
OUCH!
CLICK
I'M GOING.
THAT WAS YOUR DECISION, NOT MINE.
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT.



WHAT A BLOODY WOMAN.

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO BOOK A TABLE... WOULD YOU COME ALONG WITH ME BY ANY CHANCE?
I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL LATER.
THE PHONE...
I AM AWAY AT THE MOMENT.
AH... IT'S ON.
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE.
HELLO, IT'S ME.
9:17 A.M.

COOL.
SHE HAS A BOY-FRIEND, THEN.


AAAAH!!
KISHI!
YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR THREE DAYS AND NEVER EVEN CALLED!!
OUR EXTREMELY GENEROUS MANAGER JUST TOLD ME HE'D FIRE YOU IF YOU DIDN'T APPEAR TODAY.
HA! LUCKY ME! I'M NOT FIRED YET, THEN!

FOR THREE DAYS...

WOW, IT WAS ONLY THREE DAYS, AFTER ALL.

I THOUGHT I WAS GONE MUCH LONGER THAN THAT.

...SHE MUST HAVE BEEN FULLY AWARE OF THE TIME AND THE DAY.

THAT MEANS...

SHE WENT TO HER UNIVERSITY BECAUSE SHE HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH HER PROFESSOR.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

OKAY, GREAT.

DOLIS?

FLO

#6 End

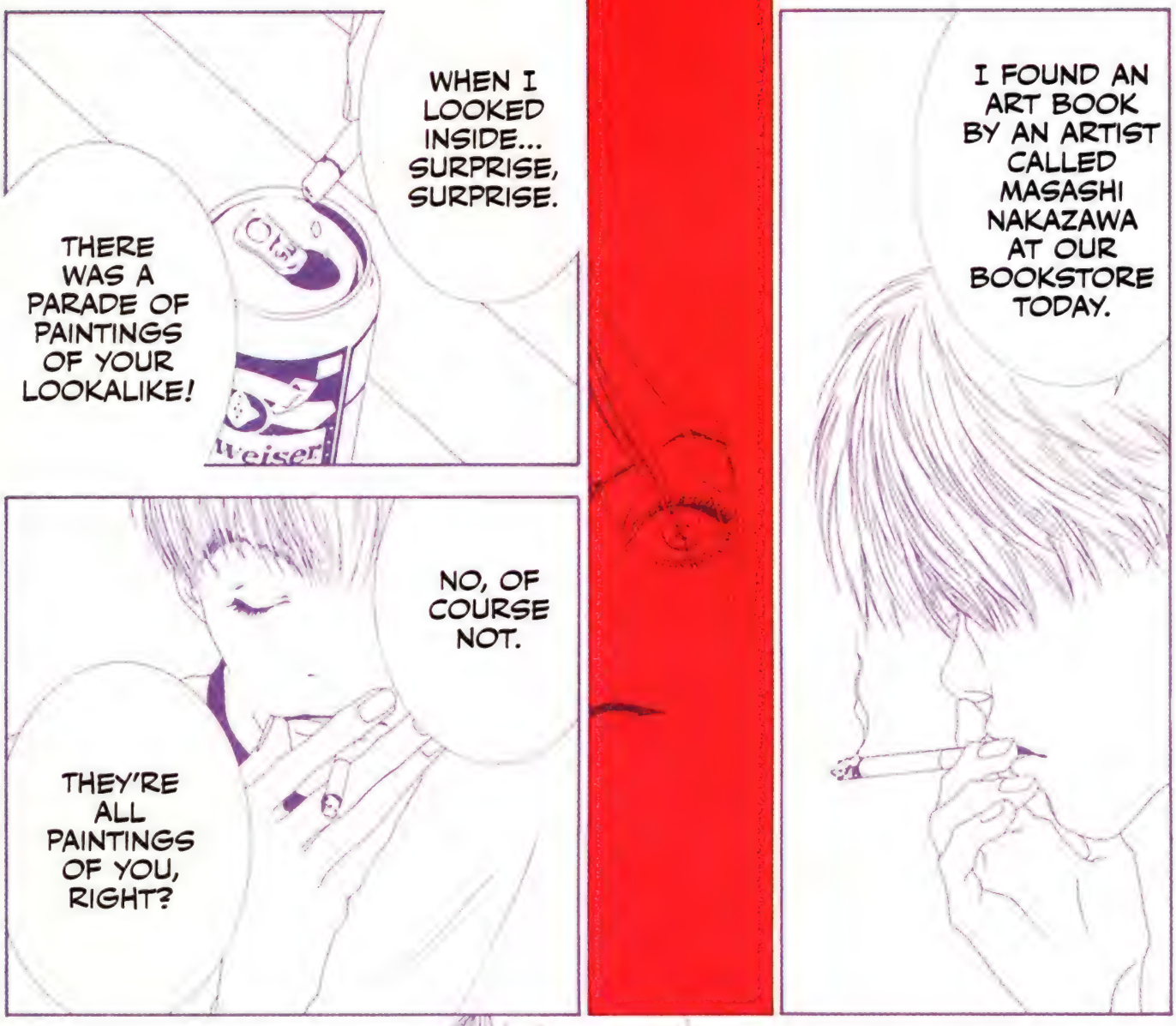
DOLIS #7

AN INSOMNIAC SUCCUBUS.

HER LONG HAIR HAS BEEN CUT OFF.

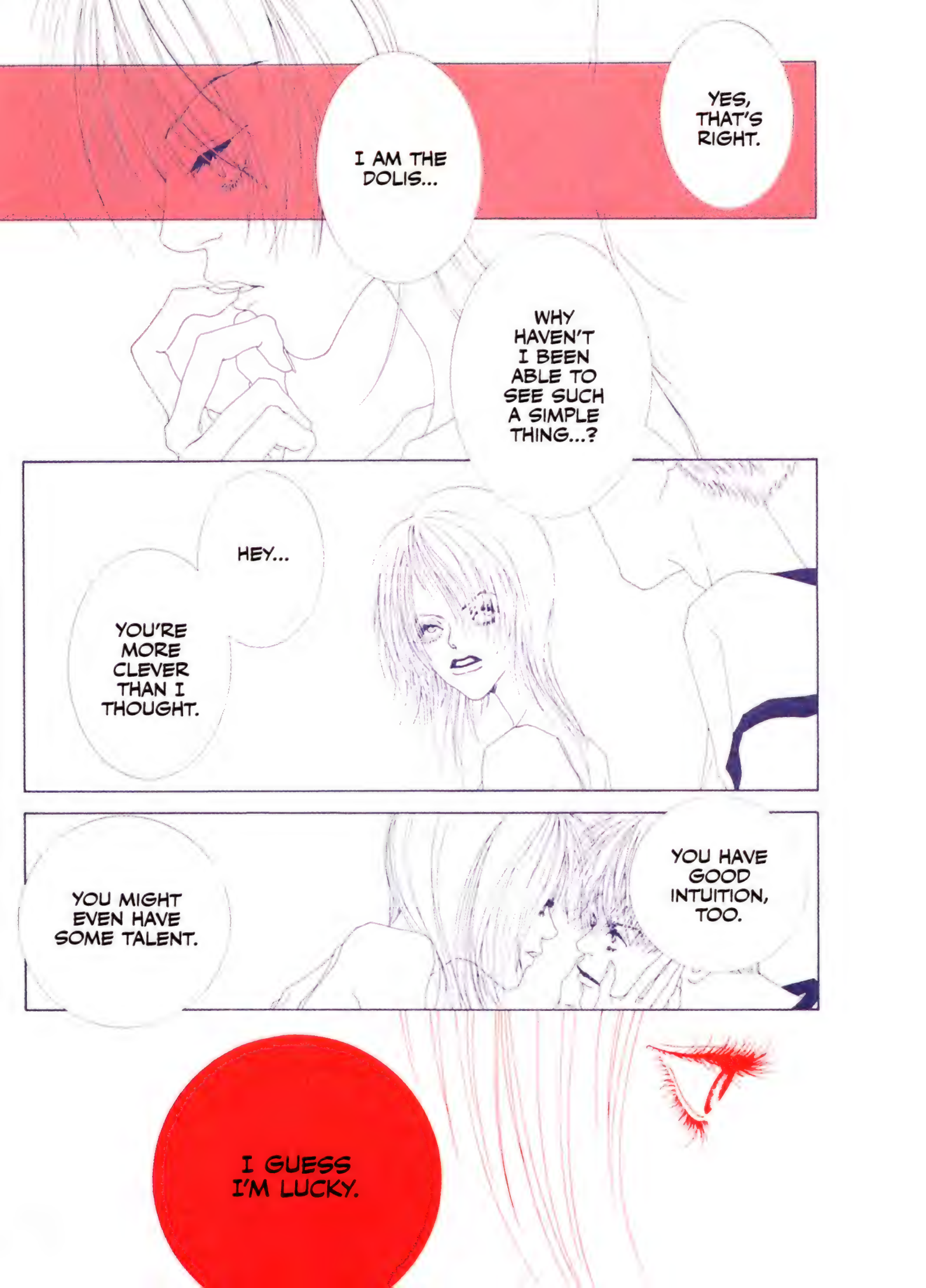
THE CHERRIES PRESERVED IN HEAVY SYRUP LOOK TOXIC...

HEY...


I FOUND AN ART BOOK BY AN ARTIST CALLED MASASHI NAKAZAWA AT OUR BOOKSTORE TODAY.
NO, OF COURSE NOT.
THEY'RE ALL PAINTINGS OF YOU, RIGHT?
WHEN I LOOKED INSIDE... SURPRISE, SURPRISE.
THERE WAS A PARADE OF PAINTINGS OF YOUR LOOKALIKE!
Weiser

WHAT'S DOLIS?

DOLIS IS ME.
HA...
HA HA...
HA!
HM...
.....


I AM THE DOLIS...
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
WHY HAVEN'T I BEEN ABLE TO SEE SUCH A SIMPLE THING...?
HEY...
YOU'RE MORE CLEVER THAN I THOUGHT.
YOU MIGHT EVEN HAVE SOME TALENT.
YOU HAVE GOOD INTUITION, TOO.
I GUESS I'M LUCKY.

THE NEXT DAY...

...WHEN I GOT BACK FROM WORK AND OPENED MITSU'S BEDROOM DOOR, A GIRL I DIDN'T KNOW STOOD INSIDE.

WHEN THE SILLY QUESTION ESCAPED MY LIPS...

...THE REDHEADED GIRL GAVE A HYSTERICAL SCREAM OF LAUGHTER.

#7 End

THE CURTAIN HAS RISEN.
IT'S THE FASHION SHOW OF A CHAMELEON GIRL.

I AM THE AUDIENCE.

SELF-CONFESSED PRODIGY, LONE MUSICIAN--
APPLAUDING.

HONEY, HONEY, HONEY*! BRAVO, BRAVO, BRAVO!

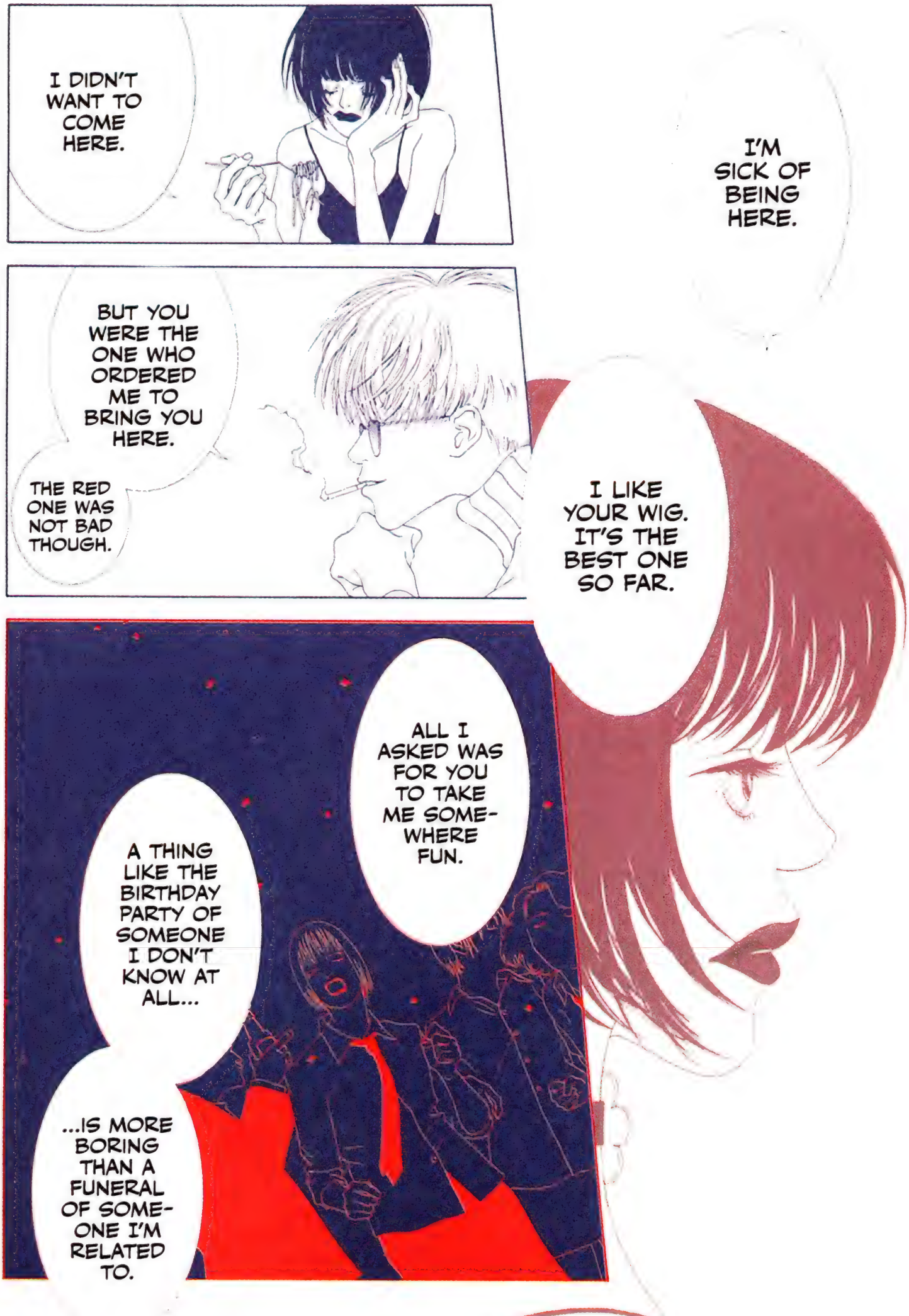
I SURRENDER TO YOU, MY SWEETHEART. I'M AFRAID I UNDERESTIMATED YOU.

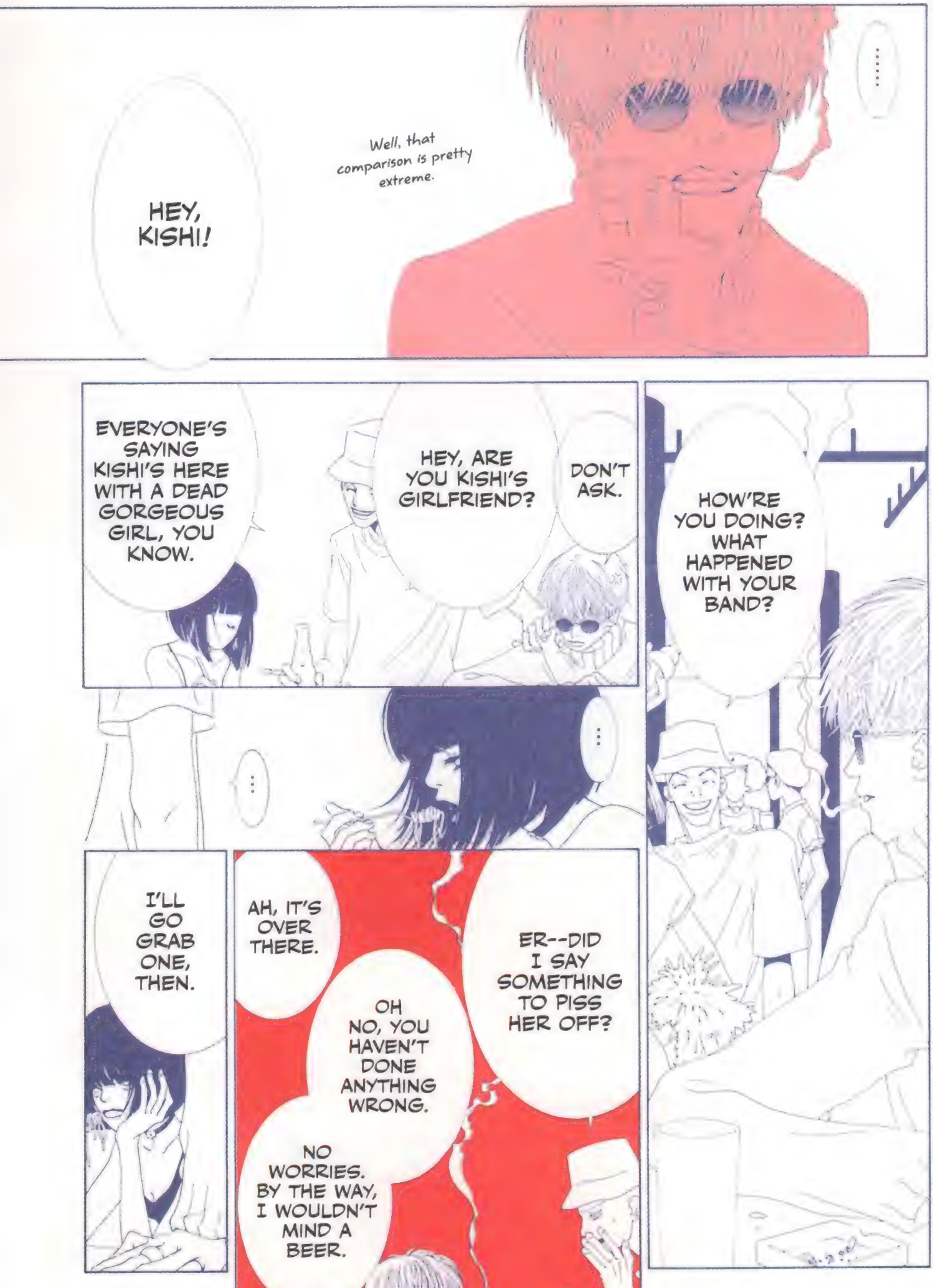
BRILLIANT!
IF I'M WITH YOU, I CAN DO ANYTHING.

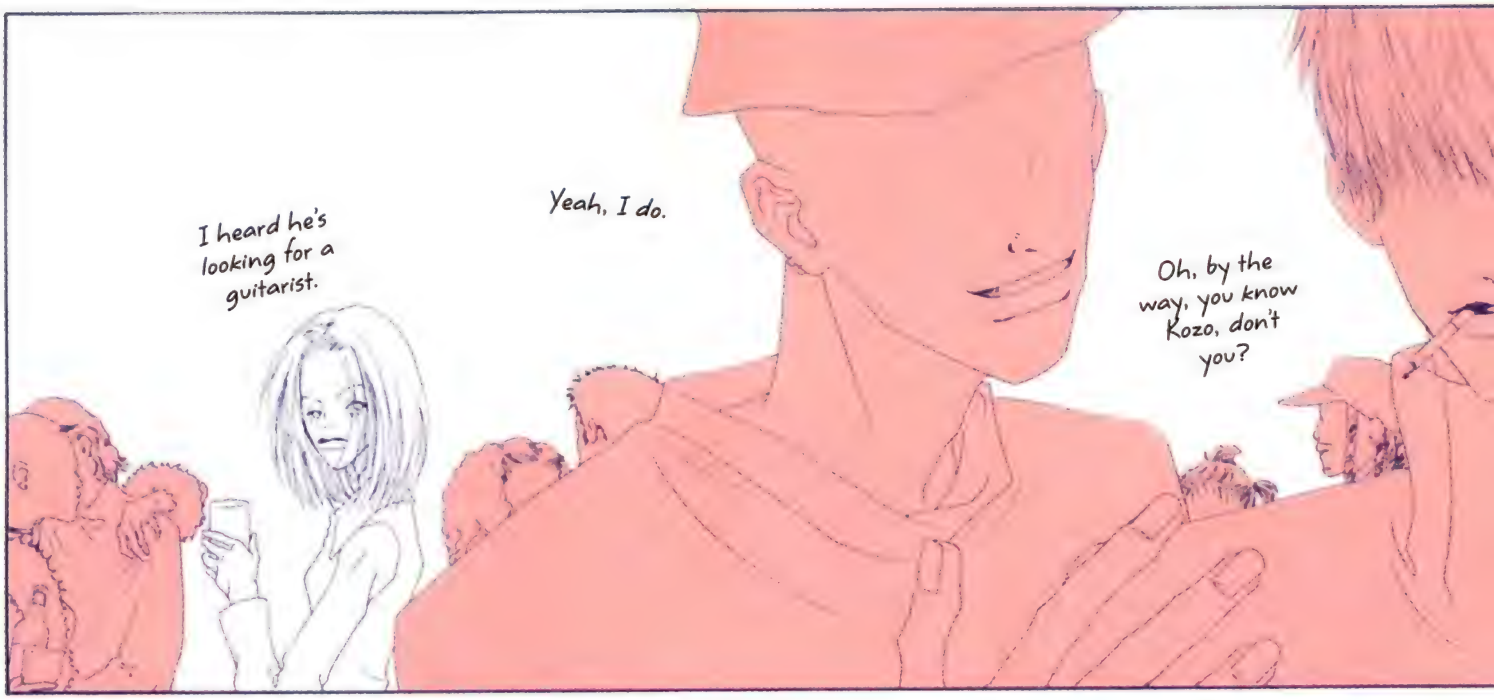
NOW LET'S GO AND CONQUER THE WORLD OR WHATEVER.

DOLLS #8

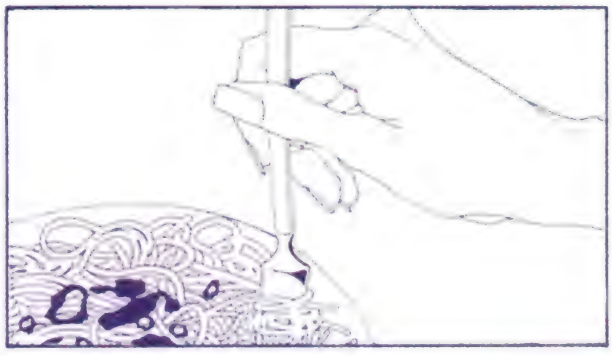
* The word "Mitsu" means honey or nectar in Japanese.

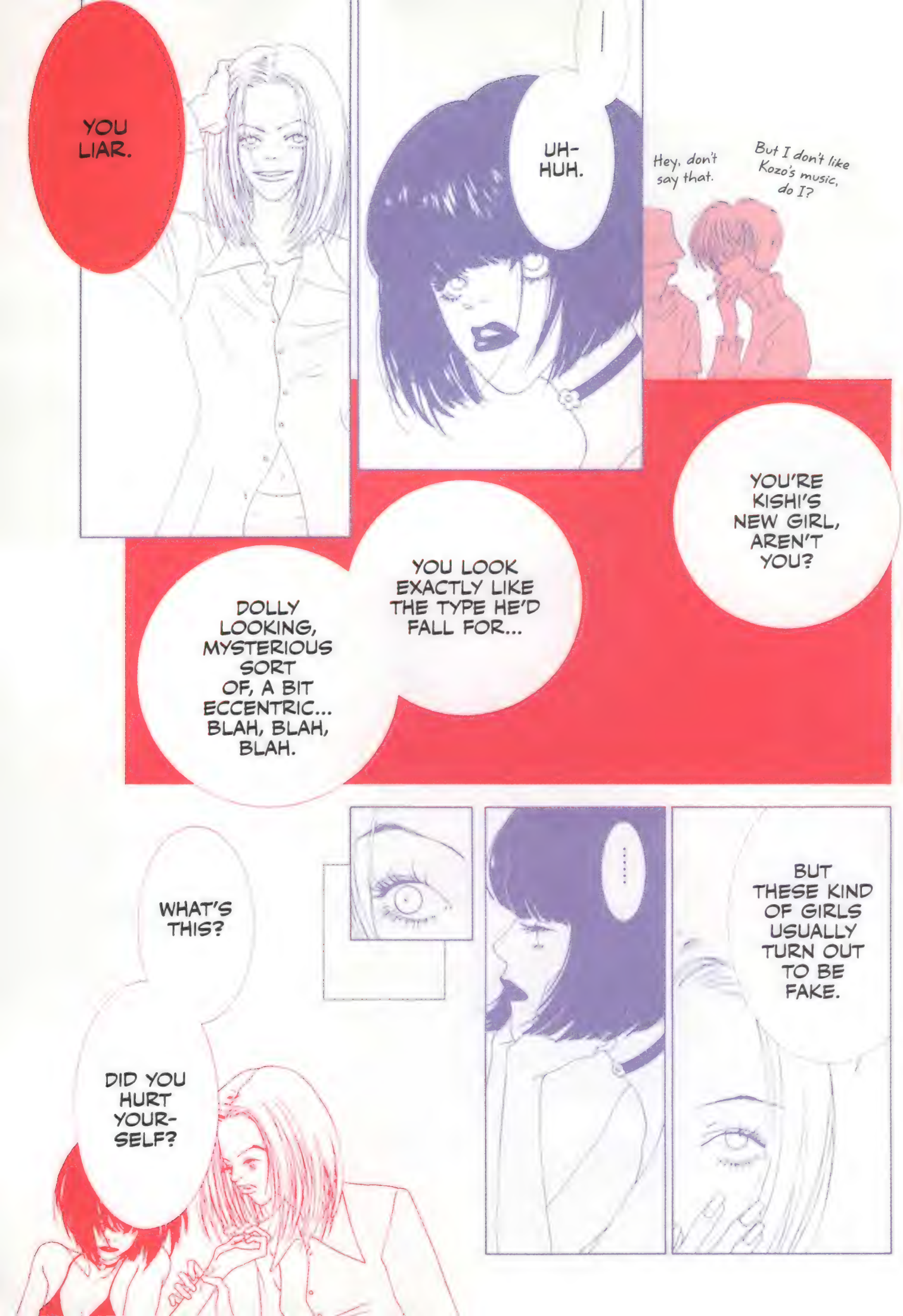

I DIDN'T WANT TO COME HERE.
I'M SICK OF BEING HERE.
BUT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO ORDERED ME TO BRING YOU HERE.
THE RED ONE WAS NOT BAD THOUGH.
I LIKE YOUR WIG. IT'S THE BEST ONE SO FAR.
ALL I ASKED WAS FOR YOU TO TAKE ME SOME-WHERE FUN.
A THING LIKE THE BIRTHDAY PARTY OF SOMEONE I DON'T KNOW AT ALL...
...IS MORE BORING THAN A FUNERAL OF SOME-ONE I'M RELATED TO.


HEY, KISHI!
Well, that comparison is pretty extreme.
EVERYONE'S SAYING KISHI'S HERE WITH A DEAD GORGEOUS GIRL, YOU KNOW.
HEY, ARE YOU KISHI'S GIRLFRIEND?
DON'T ASK.
HOW'RE YOU DOING? WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOUR BAND?
I'LL GO GRAB ONE, THEN.
AH, IT'S OVER THERE.
OH NO, YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG.
ER--DID I SAY SOMETHING TO PISS HER OFF?
NO WORRIES. BY THE WAY, I WOULDN'T MIND A BEER.

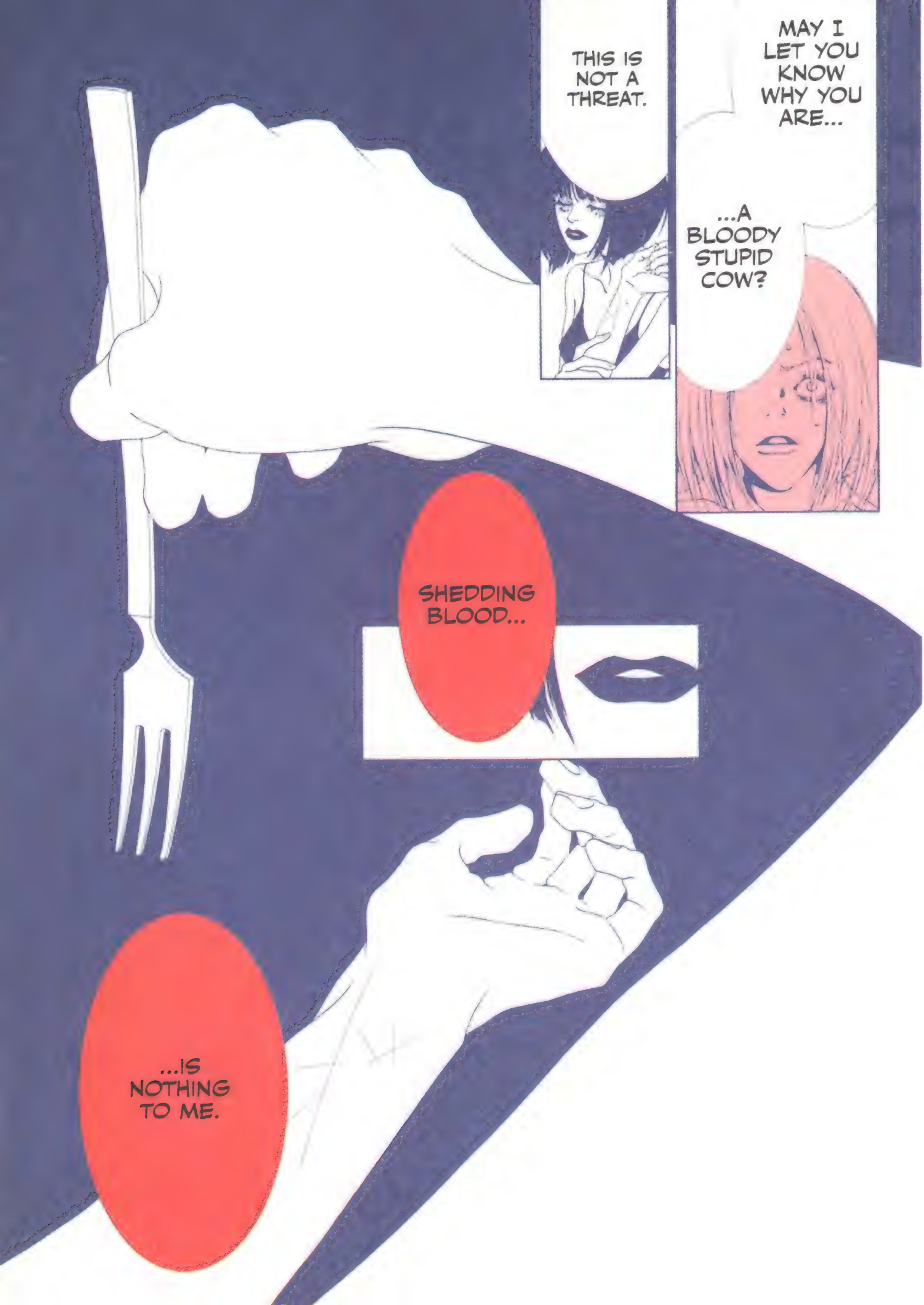

I heard he's looking for a guitarist.
Yeah, I do.
Oh, by the way, you know Kozo, don't you?

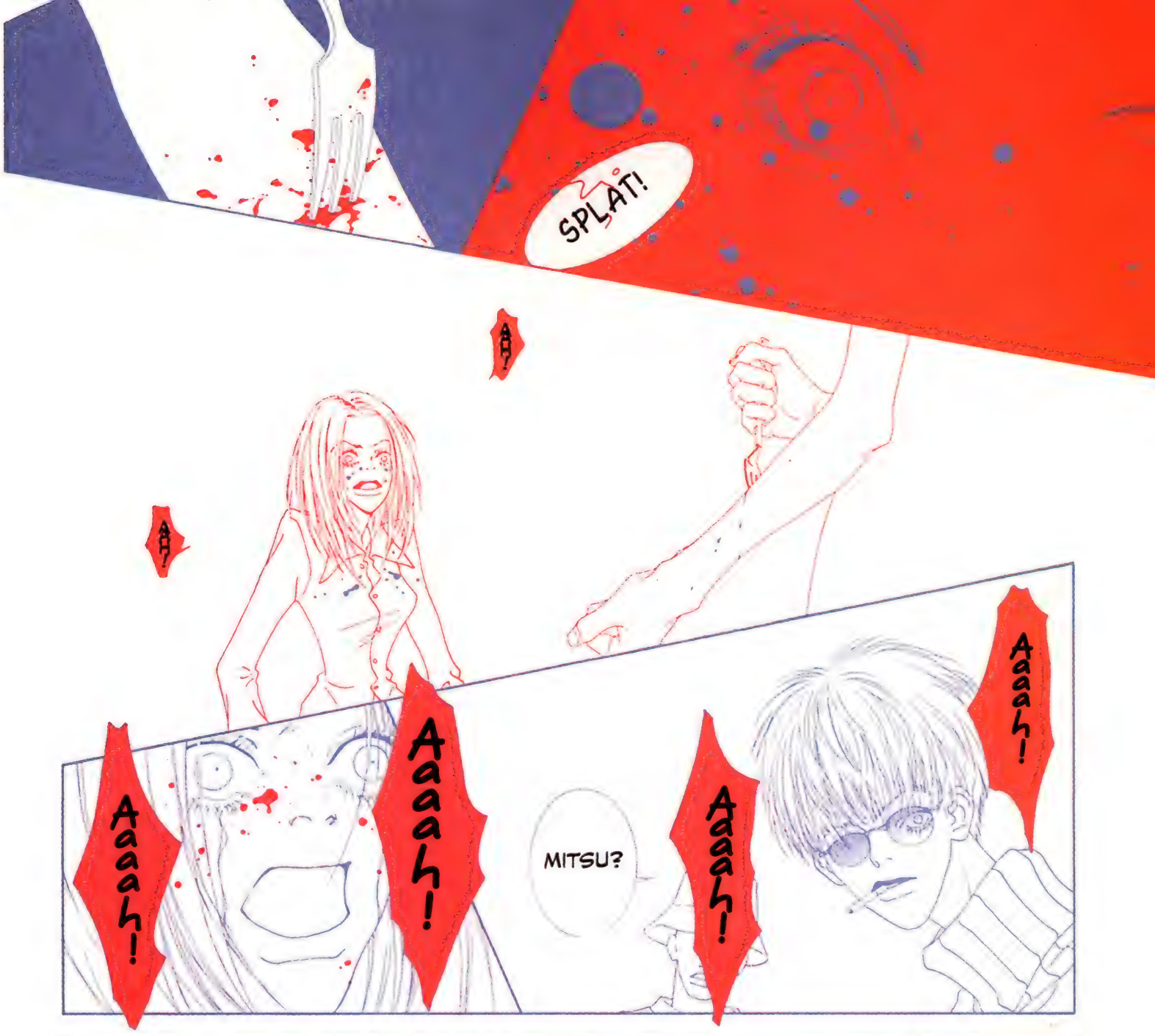
YOU ALONE?




YOU LIAR.
UH-HUH.
Hey, don't say that.
But I don't like Kozo's music, do I?
YOU'RE KISHI'S NEW GIRL, AREN'T YOU?
YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE THE TYPE HE'D FALL FOR...
DOLLY LOOKING, MYSTERIOUS SORT OF, A BIT ECCENTRIC... BLAH, BLAH, BLAH.
WHAT'S THIS?
DID YOU HURT YOUR-SELF?
.....
BUT THESE KIND OF GIRLS USUALLY TURN OUT TO BE FAKE.

.....
DON'T YOU GUYS GET ALONG WELL?
OH, I'M SO SORRY.
I WAS INSEN-SITIVE.
BUT THIS KIND OF THREAT DOESN'T WORK ON KISHI. HE LOOKS NICE AND EASYGOING, BUT IN FACT, HE'S JUST INDIFFERENT TO ANYONE.
YOU'D BETTER BREAK UP WITH HIM...
DON'T TOUCH ME, YOU STUPID COW.


THIS IS NOT A THREAT.
MAY I LET YOU KNOW WHY YOU ARE...
...A BLOODY STUPID COW?
SHEDDING BLOOD...
...IS NOTHING TO ME.



I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED NEXT!

THE WOMAN WHO GOT MITSU'S BLOOD ALL OVER HERSELF CONTINUED TO SCREAM, STANDING THERE FROZEN LIKE A MORON.

HER SCREAM CAUSED OTHER GUESTS TO JOIN IN HER SCREAMING.

MITSU PASSED OUT BECAUSE OF THE ANEMIA. (BUT, COME ON, SHE DID IT TO HERSELF!)

THEN THERE WAS A POLICE SIREN, FOLLOWED BY THE ABSOLUTE MAYHEM.

IN ALL THE MESS AND MADNESS,

I DRAGGED MITSU OUT

AND FLED INTO THE NIGHT

...ABSOLUTELY OVERCOME WITH LAUGHTER!

#8 End

DOLIS, DOLIS...

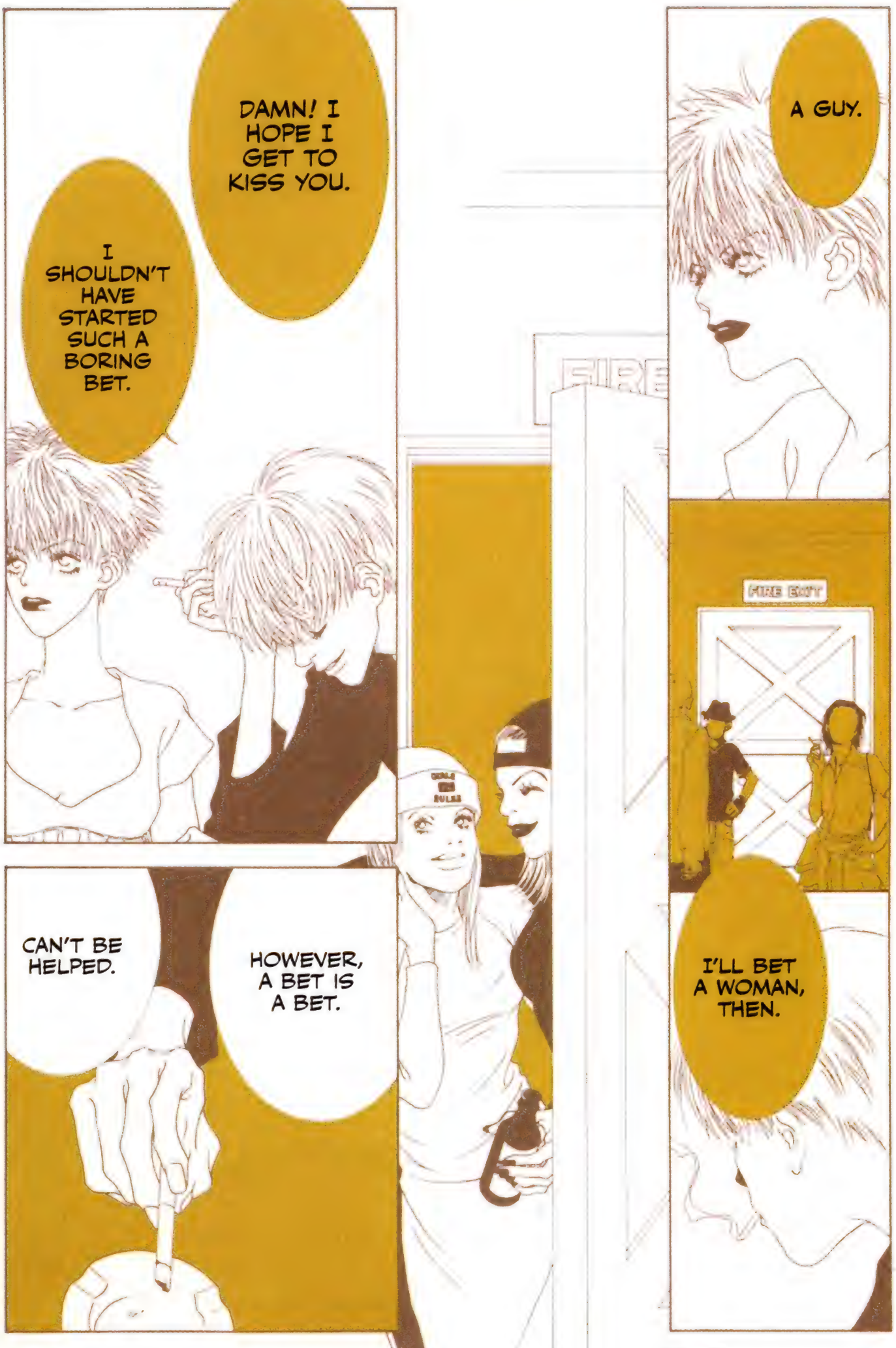
I CHANT IT EVERYDAY...

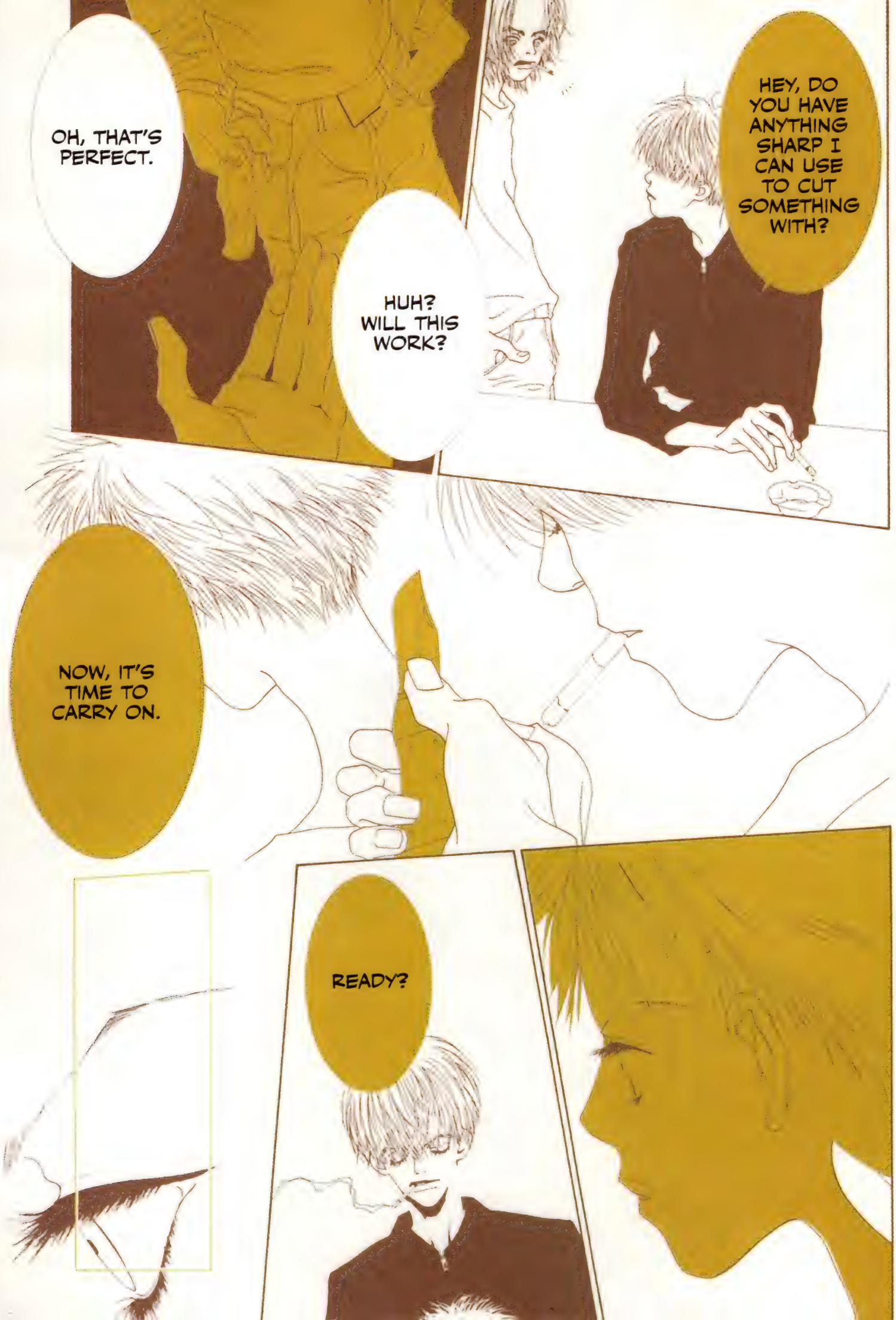
LIKE A MAGIC SPELL...

HOPING NOT TO BREAK DOWN...

...WHETHER IT'S A WOMAN OR A MAN WHO'LL WALK IN NEXT THROUGH THAT DOOR?
SHALL WE BET...
THE WINNER IS ENTITLED TO KISS ANY PART OF THE LOSER'S BODY.
.....
EITHER WAY, I GAIN NOTHING.

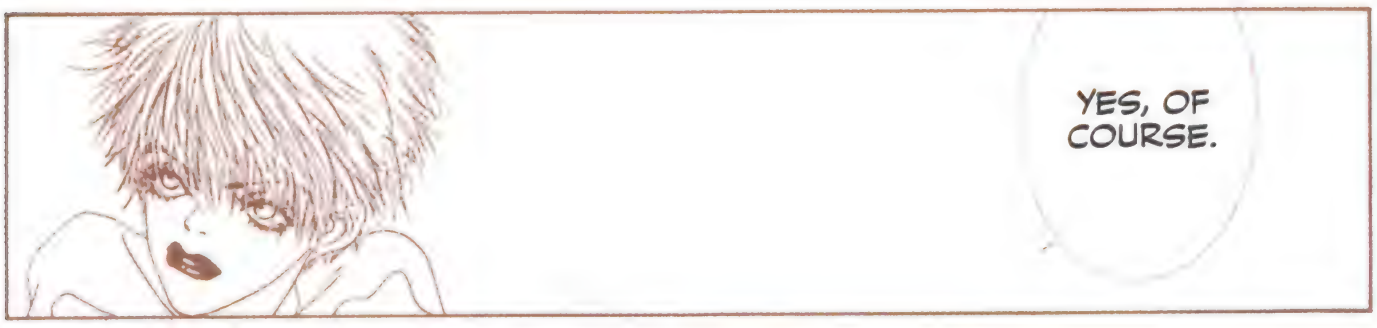
OOPS...YOU FIGURED THAT OUT, HUH?
ALL RIGHT. SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT IF YOU WIN THE BET?
THE WINNER IS ENTITLED TO CUT ANY PART OF THE LOSER'S BODY.
ALL RIGHT.
LET'S GO WITH THAT THEN.
AFTER ALL, I WON'T LOSE.
YOU REALLY HAVE A BAD TASTE...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN EXTREMELY LUCKY, YOU SEE.


A GUY.
I'LL BET A WOMAN, THEN.
FIRE EXIT
DAMN! I HOPE I GET TO KISS YOU.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE STARTED SUCH A BORING BET.
HOWEVER, A BET IS A BET.
CAN'T BE HELPED.


HEY, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING SHARP I CAN USE TO CUT SOMETHING WITH?
HUH? WILL THIS WORK?
OH, THAT'S PERFECT.
NOW, IT'S TIME TO CARRY ON.
READY?

SNIP
THAT'S IT. WERE YOU SCARED?
SORRY, I WAS KIDDING. I FELT LIKE PSYCHING YOU OUT A BIT...
ARE YOU SURE? THAT'S ALL?
YEAH...?
OKAY. NEVER MIND.
I BET FIRST THE LAST TIME, SO IT'S YOUR TURN TO GO FIRST.
WHAT...?

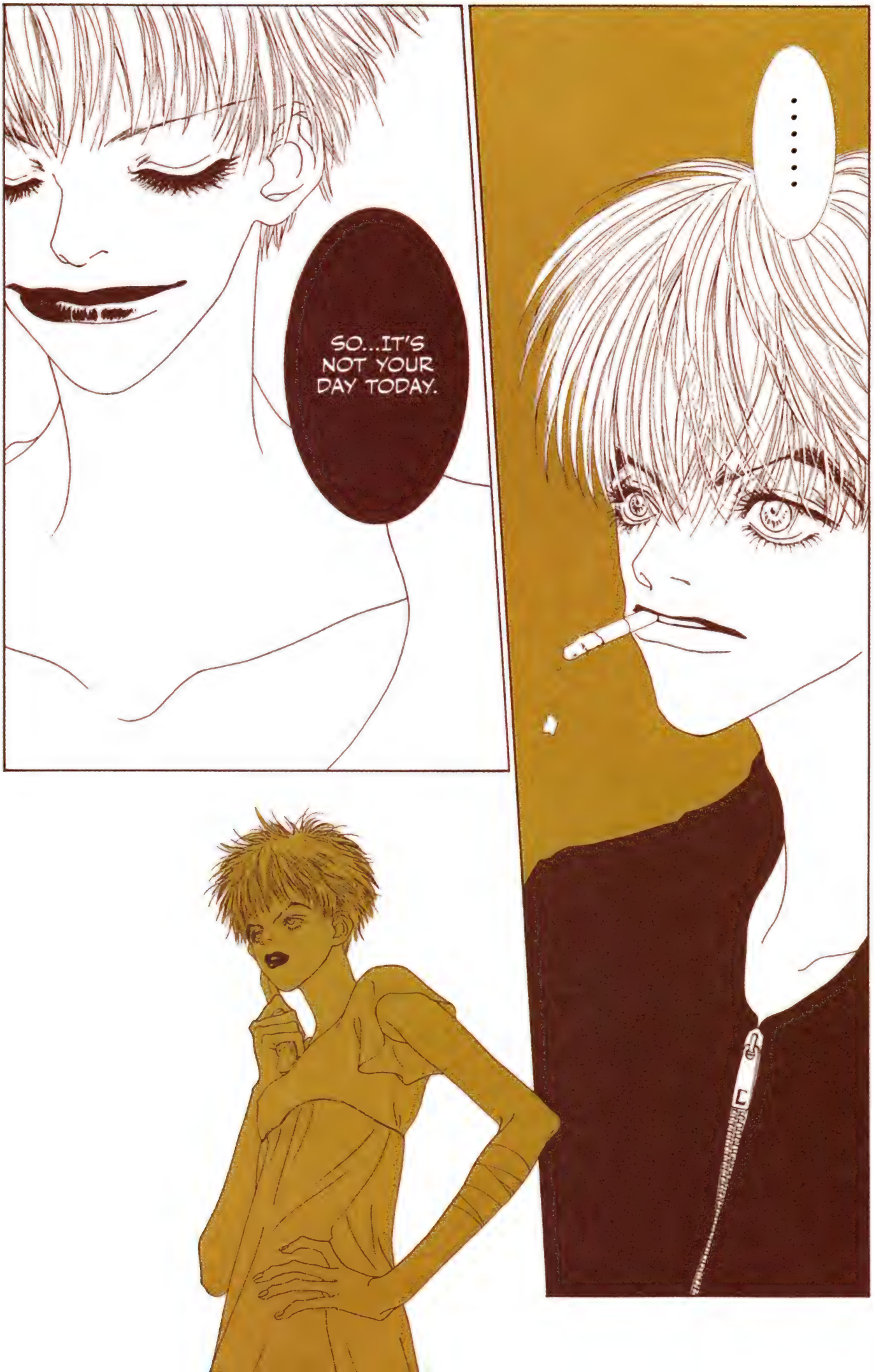
IS THIS STILL CONTINUING...?

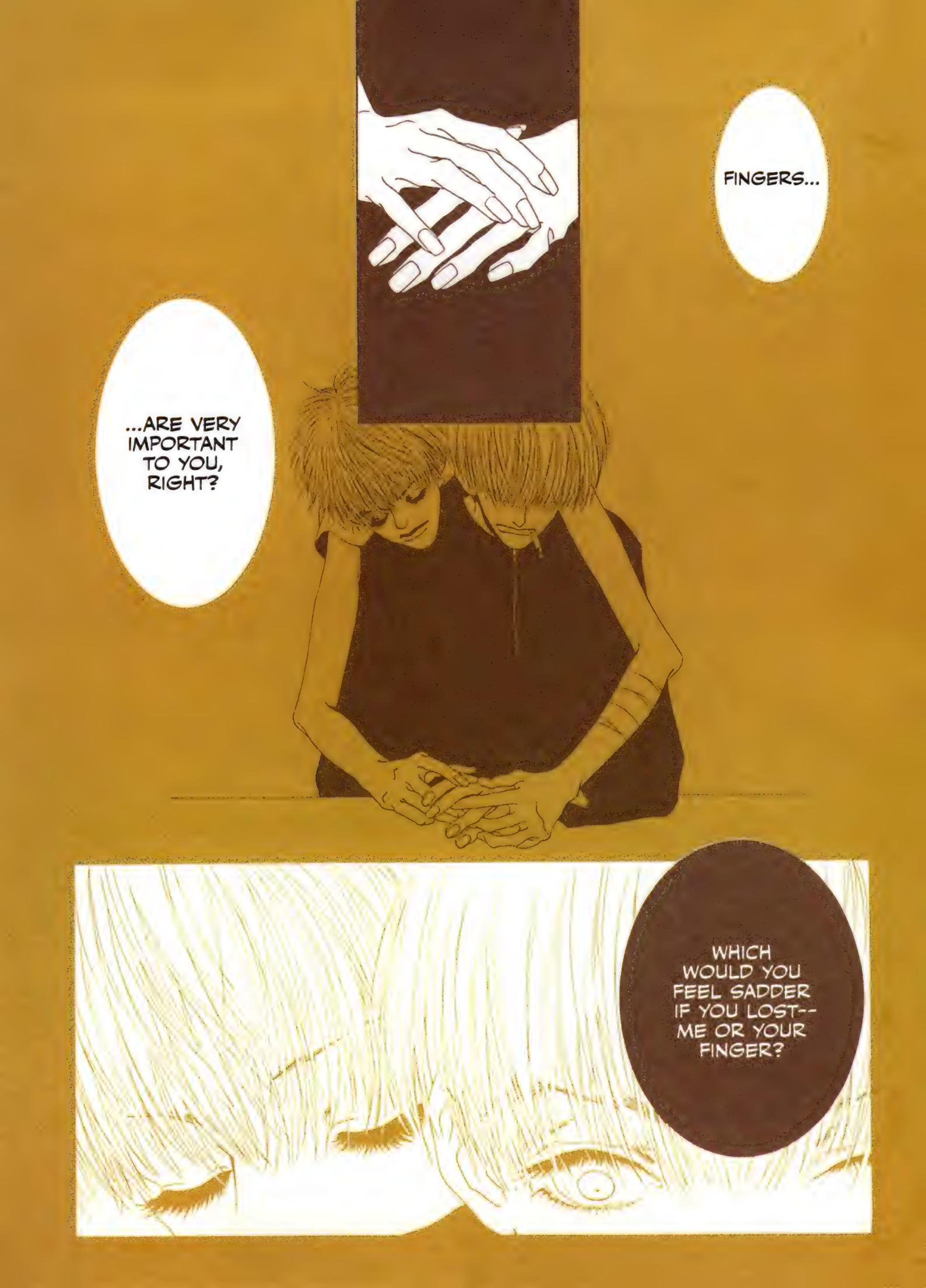

YES, OF COURSE.

.....
A GUY.

#9 End

DOLIS #10


SO...IT'S NOT YOUR DAY TODAY.
.....


FINGERS...
...ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU, RIGHT?
WHICH WOULD YOU FEEL SADDER IF YOU LOST-- ME OR YOUR FINGER?

WELL, I DON'T THINK SO. NEEDLESS TO SAY...
...I'D CHOOSE YOU.
YOU'D BETTER THINK HARD BEFORE YOU ANSWER.
SEE, THAT'S THE CORRECT ANSWER.
HMMM...
YES, YOU WILL.
--AND WITHIN TEN SECONDS.
NO, I WON'T.
.....
YOU'LL REGRET WHAT YOU SAID...
...JUST NOW.

TEN...
NINE...
EIGHT...
THREE...
MITSU...
OKAY, I'M SORRY. I'LL TAKE BACK MY WORDS. GIVE ME A BREAK.
SEVEN...
TWO...
ONE...
MI... TSU...

OH, COME ON. DID YOU TAKE IT SERIOUSLY?
I WOULDN'T DO SUCH A THING. I FELT LIKE PSYCHING YOU OUT A BIT. SAME AS YOU.
……

ACTUALLY YES...
NO...
YOU COULD DO IT FOR REAL.
HMPH
RIGHT... YOU'RE THE HALFWAY SELF-DESTRUCTIVE OBSESSIVE SORT.
IF YOU THINK OF ME THAT WAY, WHY DID YOU EVEN TAKE THE BET?
THERE IS A SMALL VOICE IN MY HEAD, WHISPERING TO ME...

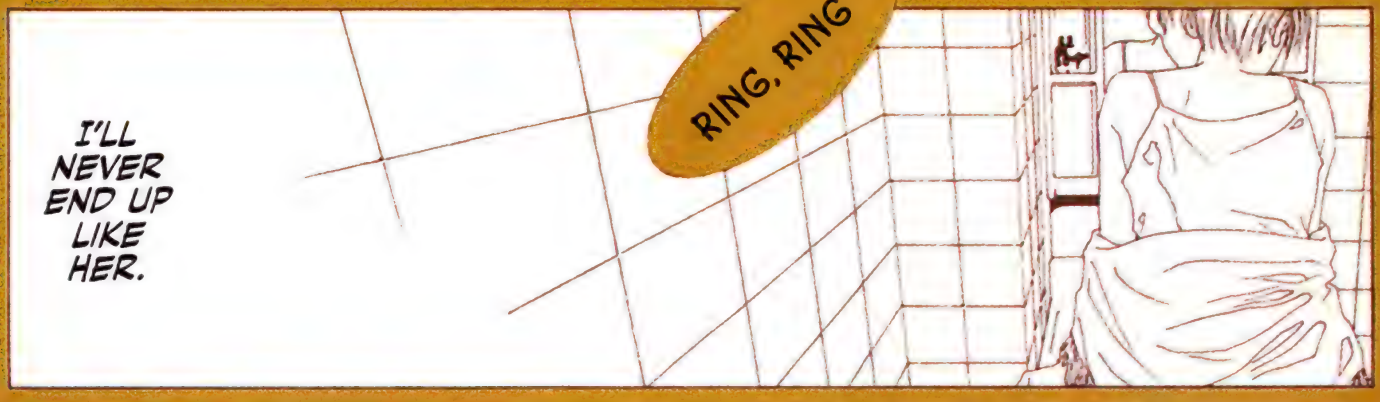
IF I GO ANY FURTHER, WE ARE SURE TO END UP SOMEWHERE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN FROM.
THIS GIRL IS NOT GOOD. SHE'S A REAL HAZARD.

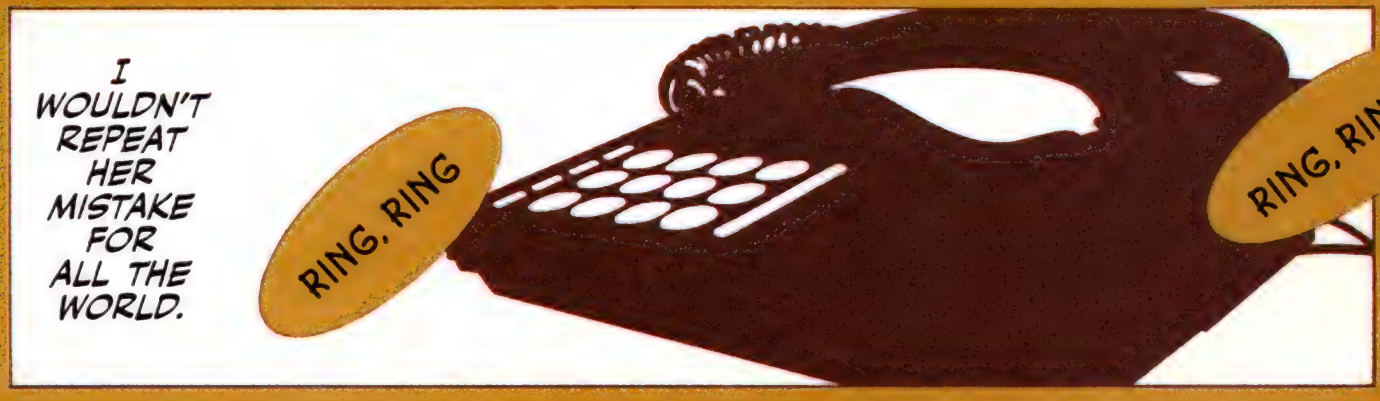
WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHERE ARE WE HEADING?
THE PROBLEM IS: I'M ENJOYING THE RIDE, TOO.

#10 End

Dolis #11

I'M DIFFERENT FROM HER.
RING, RING


I'LL NEVER END UP LIKE HER.
RING, RING


I WOULDN'T REPEAT HER MISTAKE FOR ALL THE WORLD.
RING, RING
RING, RING

POP!
RING, RING

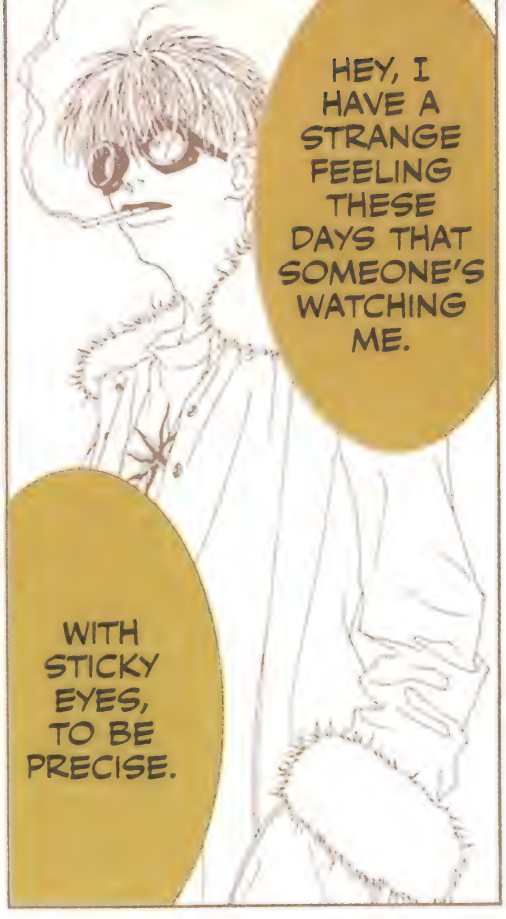
WOOOOW...

YOU'VE GOT NO EYEBROWS, NOW.

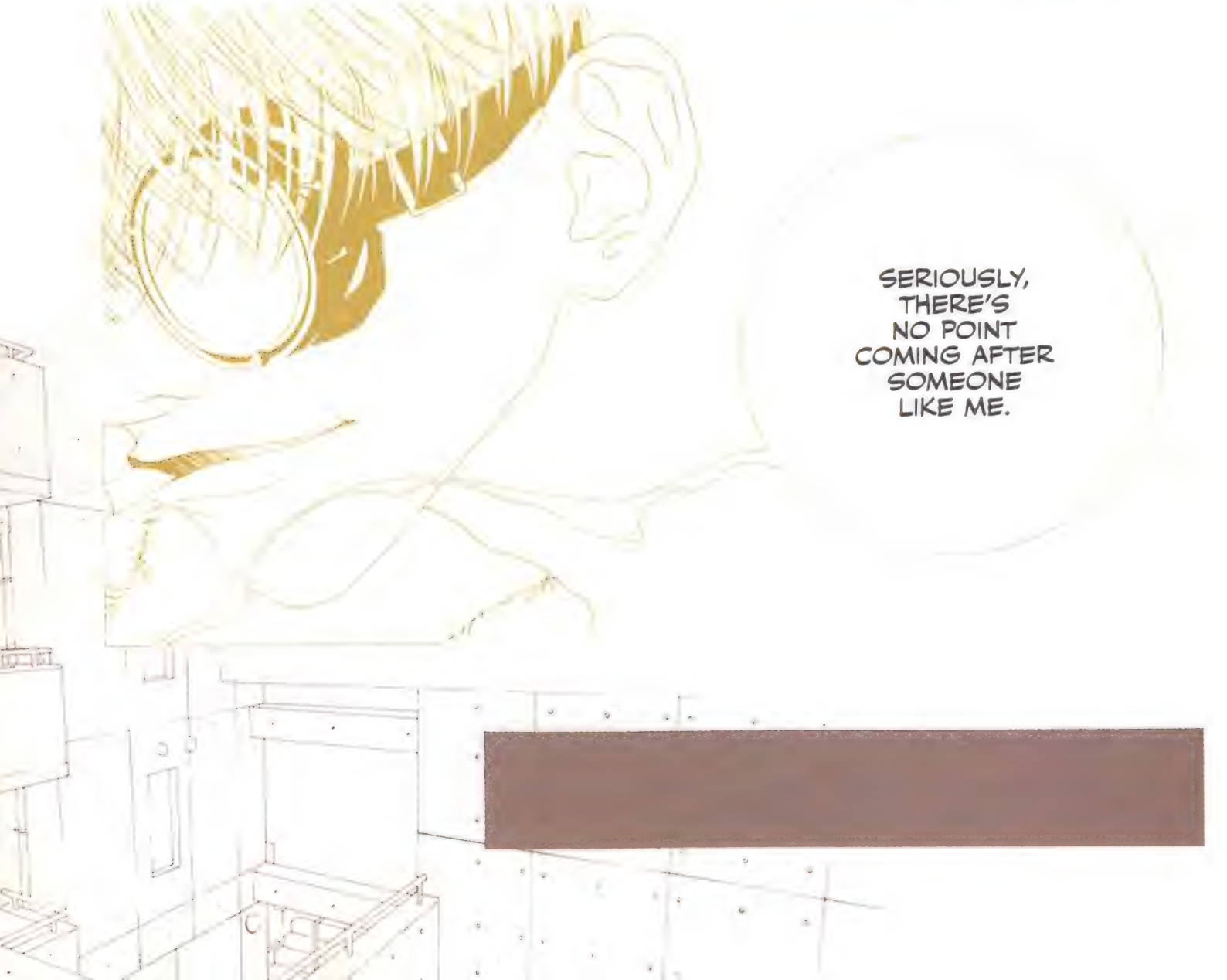
AS IF WE WERE PARANOIDS OBSESSED WITH LOVE.

AS IF WE WERE FISH THAT WOULD DIE FROM LACK OF AIR IF THEY STOPPED SWIMMING.

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
AH, THAT'S AUTO-NOMIC NERVE STUFF.
I KNOW A DOCTOR OR TWO WHO CAN DEAL WITH IT.

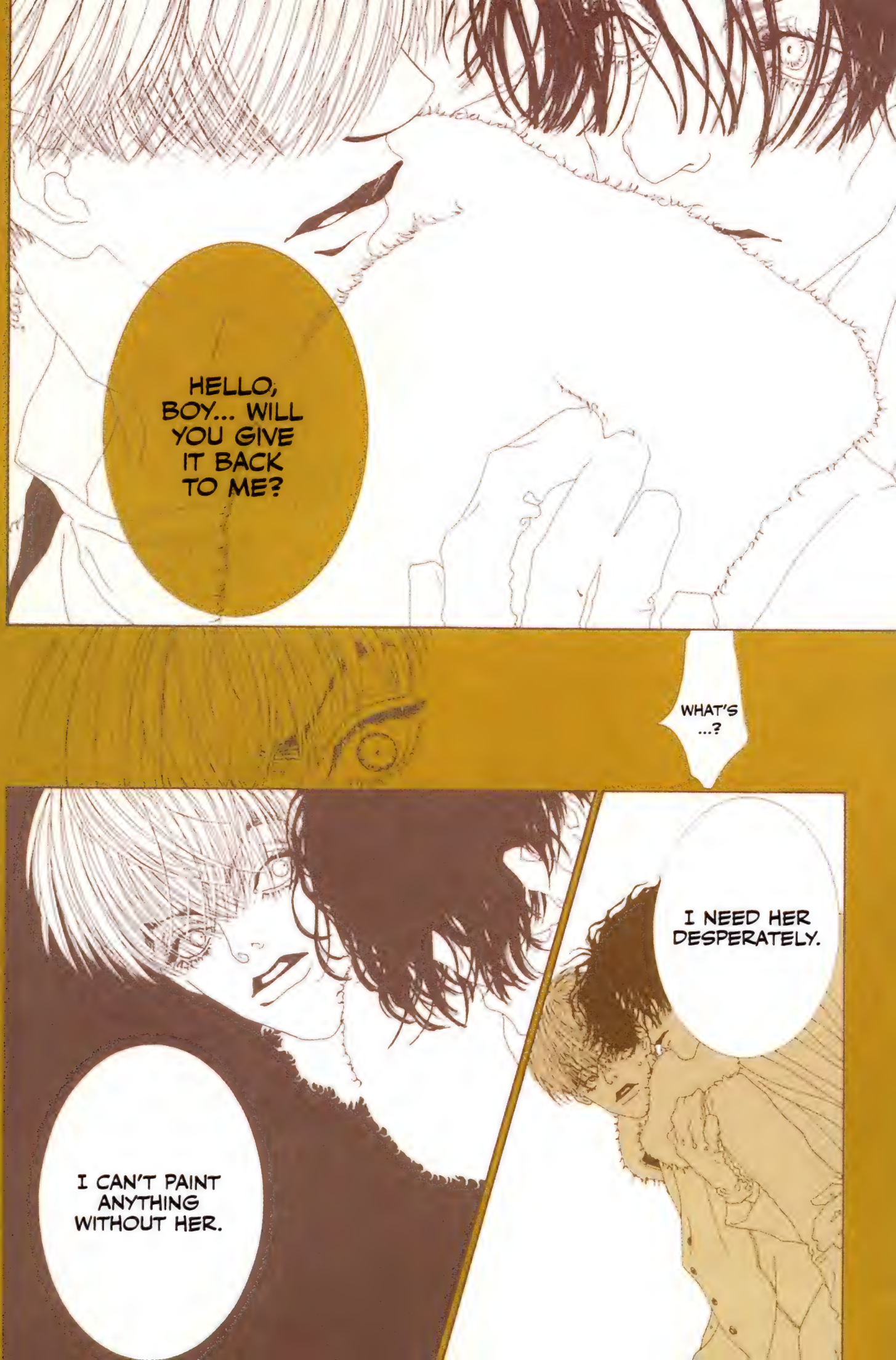

HEY, I HAVE A STRANGE FEELING THESE DAYS THAT SOMEONE'S WATCHING ME.
WITH STICKY EYES, TO BE PRECISE.

...
IT'S A STALKER!!


SERIOUSLY, THERE'S NO POINT COMING AFTER SOMEONE LIKE ME.

I'M OUT OF CIGARETTES.
GO AHEAD.
OOPS.
NOTHING. I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU GET INSIDE OKAY.
'Cause there's a stalker, you know.
WHAT?
RIDICULOUS.

SO.
HM.
Gotta get some cigarettes.


HELLO, BOY... WILL YOU GIVE IT BACK TO ME?
WHAT'S ...?
I NEED HER DESPERATELY.
I CAN'T PAINT ANYTHING WITHOUT HER.

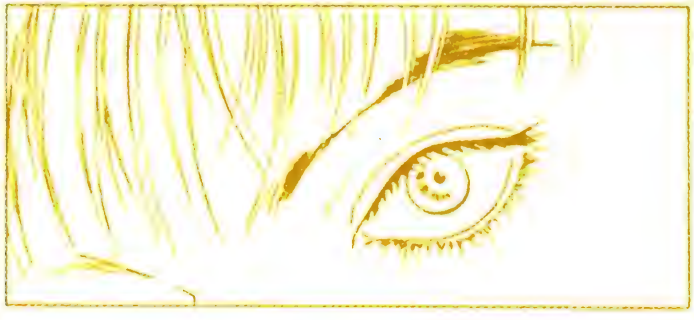
#11 END

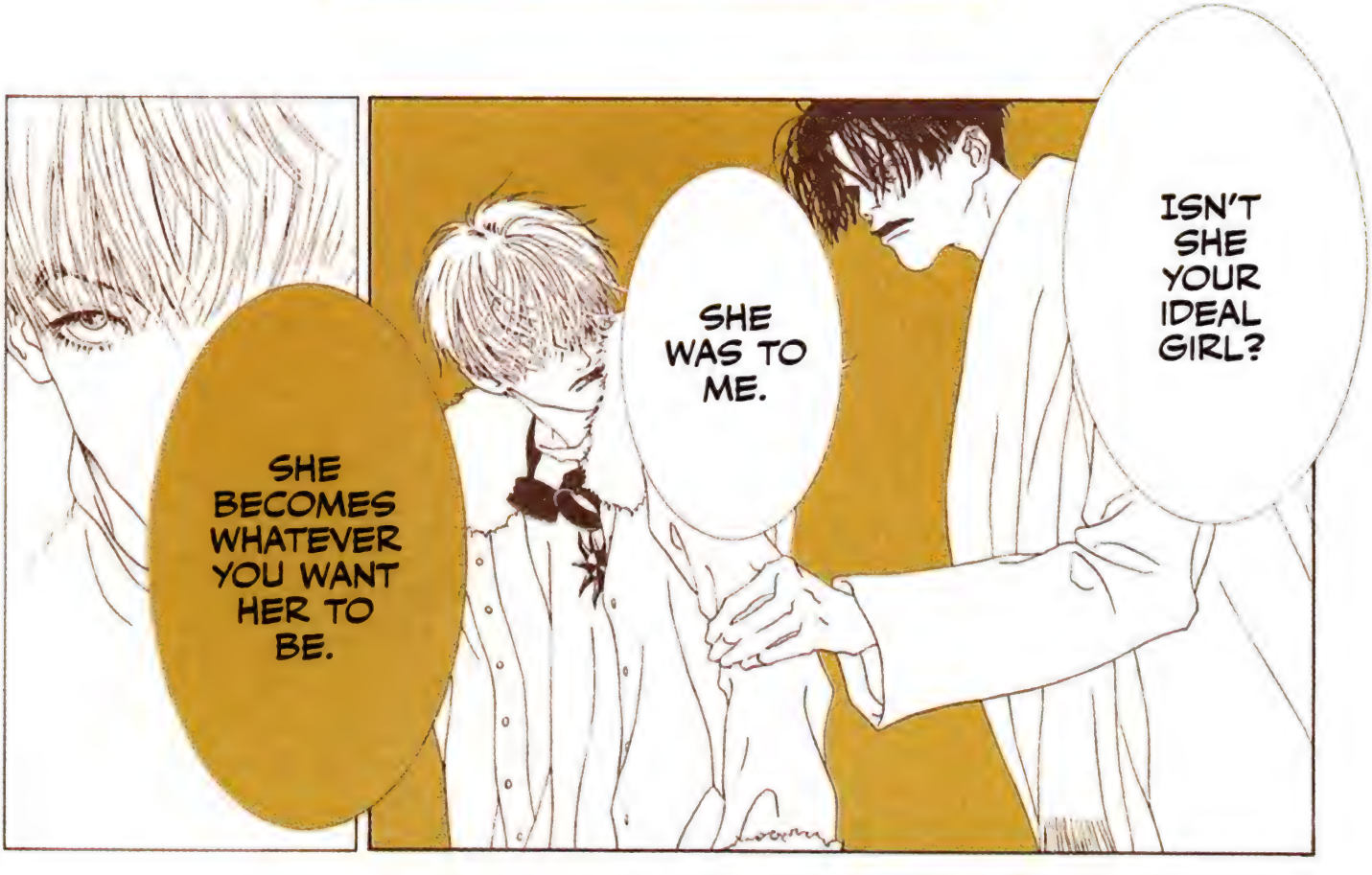
THE GUY HAD TOLD ME A SIMPLE STORY.

HE WAS A DREARY, TALKATIVE MAN.

MITSU AND I DIDN'T TALK ABOUT IT AFTER ALL.

SHE ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN HANDLE, BOY.

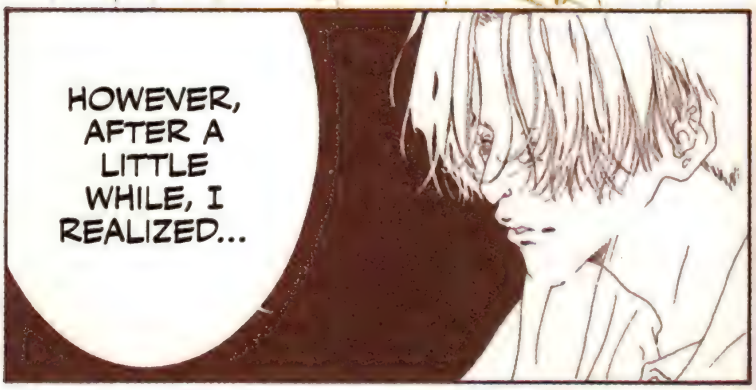



ISN'T SHE YOUR IDEAL GIRL?
SHE WAS TO ME.
SHE BECOMES WHATEVER YOU WANT HER TO BE.

THE FIRST TIME I SAW HER, SHE TOOK MY BREATH AWAY...

...BECAUSE MY "DOLIS," MY IDEAL GIRL WHO I'VE WANTED TO DRAW FOR A LIFETIME, WAS ACTUALLY STANDING RIGHT THERE.

IT WAS A DESTINED, ARTISTIC ENCOUNTER.



...SHE WAS CONDUCTING HERSELF IN THAT WAY HALF-UNCONSCIOUSLY, HALF-CONSCIOUSLY.

...I'VE NEVER MET SUCH A PERFECT DOLIS LIKE HER.

THOUGH I HAD USED MANY DIFFERENT MODELS BEFORE...

IT WAS NOT JUST HER APPEARANCE, BUT THE WAY SHE MOVED, THE WAY SHE THOUGHT, AND THE WAY SHE SPOKE. EVERY SINGLE THING ABOUT HER WAS DOLIS ITSELF.

SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT SHE SHOULD DO.

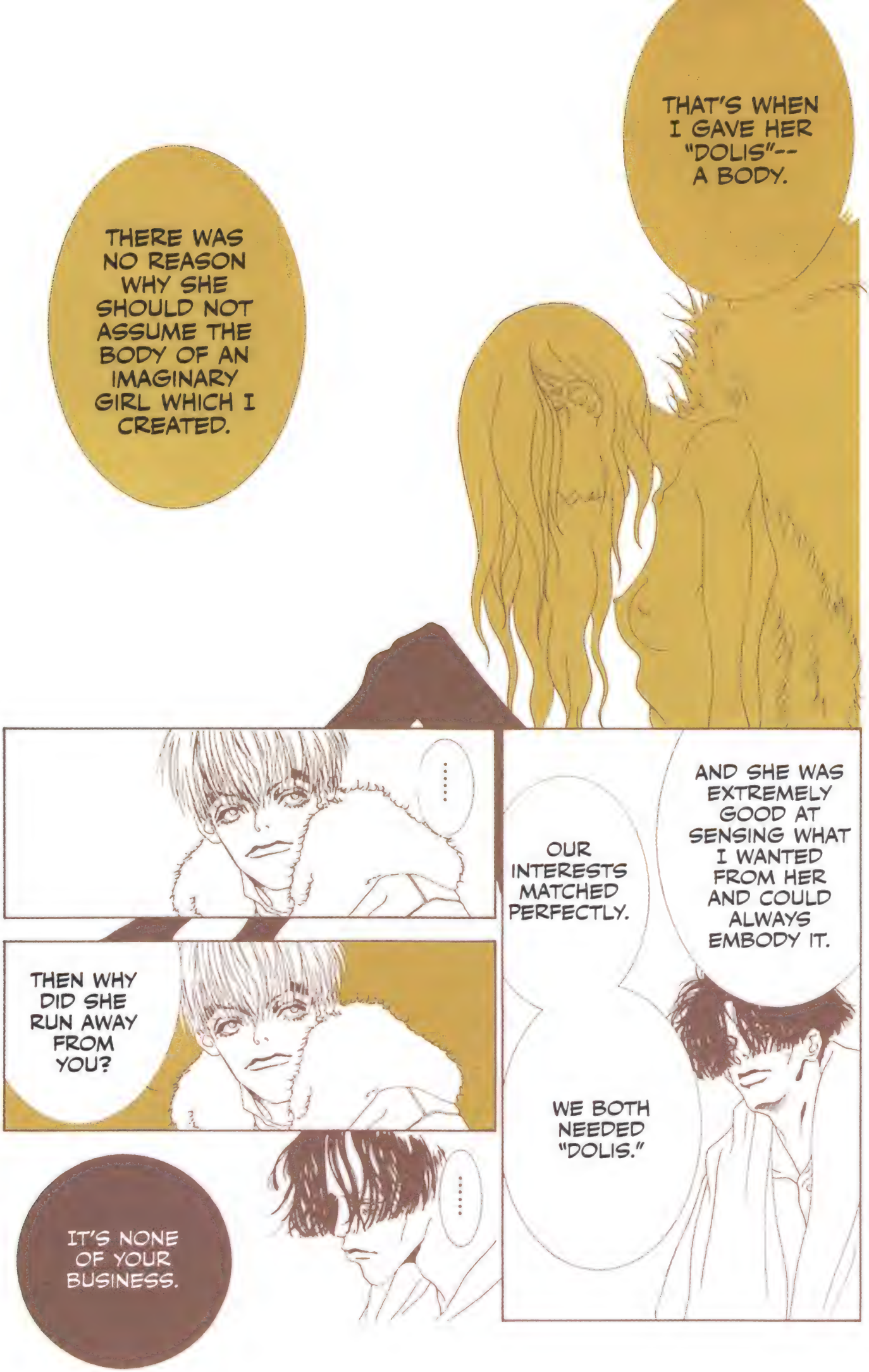
IN THOSE DAYS, SHE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH HERSELF.

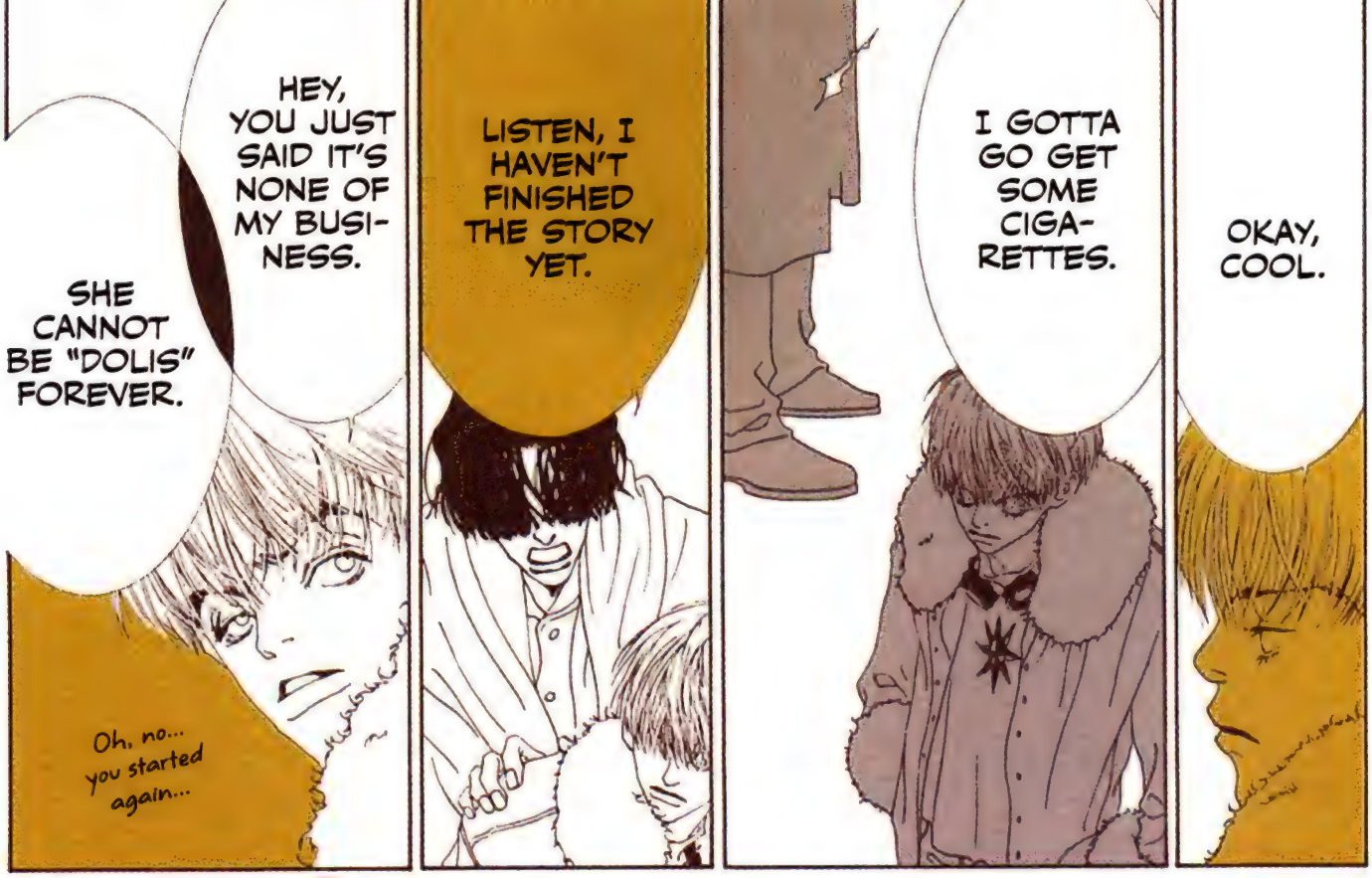
EXPOSING HER NAKED NERVES TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

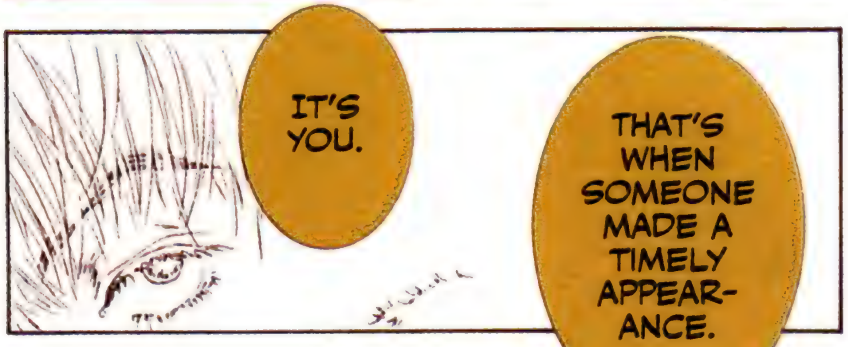
...UNDER A VAGUE ANXIETY AND AN UNCON-TROLLABLE FEAR...

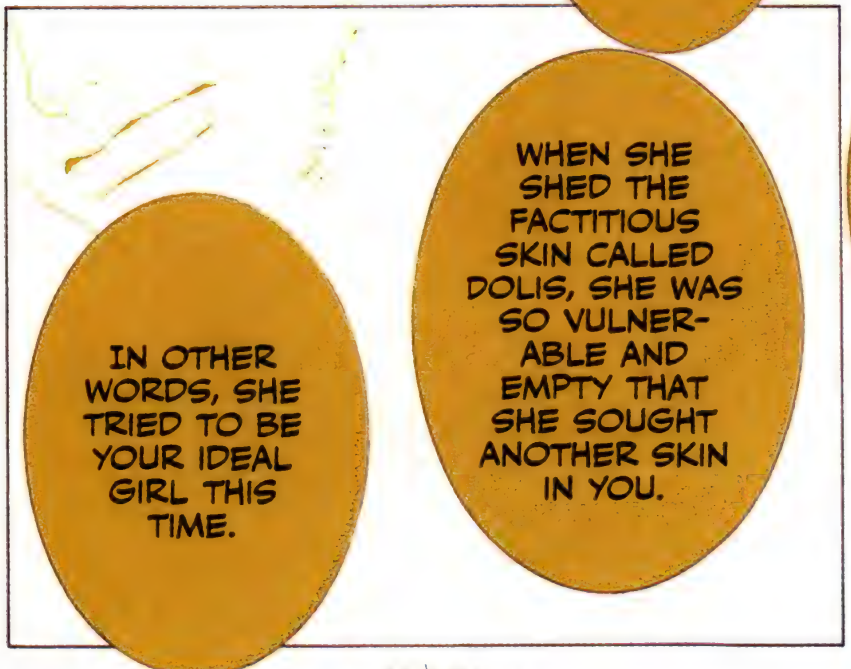
SHE DIDN'T KNOW HOW SHE SHOULD LIVE HER LIFE.

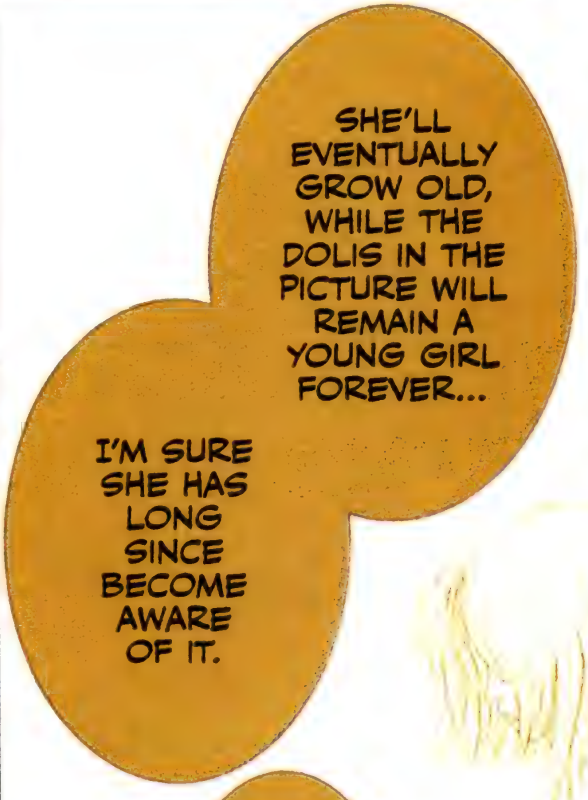
...THIS DOLLY GIRL WAS ON THE VERGE OF GOING INTO FITS.


THERE WAS NO REASON WHY SHE SHOULD NOT ASSUME THE BODY OF AN IMAGINARY GIRL WHICH I CREATED.
THAT'S WHEN I GAVE HER "DOLIS"-- A BODY.
.....
THEN WHY DID SHE RUN AWAY FROM YOU?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
.....
OUR INTERESTS MATCHED PERFECTLY.
AND SHE WAS EXTREMELY GOOD AT SENSING WHAT I WANTED FROM HER AND COULD ALWAYS EMBODY IT.
WE BOTH NEEDED "DOLIS."

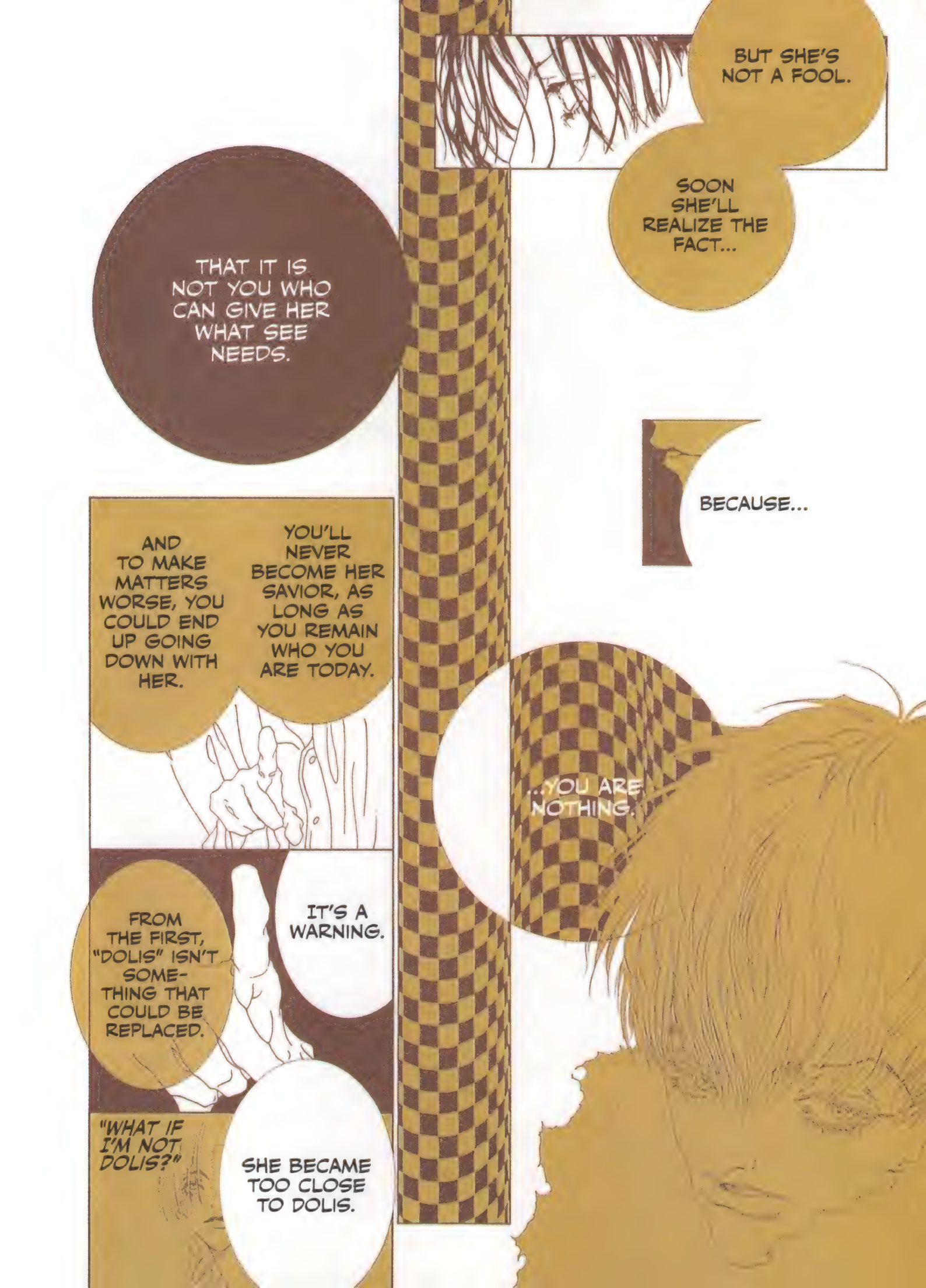

SHE CANNOT BE "DOLIS" FOREVER.
HEY, YOU JUST SAID IT'S NONE OF MY BUSI-NESS.
Oh, no... you started again...
LISTEN, I HAVEN'T FINISHED THE STORY YET.
I GOTTA GO GET SOME CIGA-RETTES.
OKAY, COOL.


IT'S YOU.
THAT'S WHEN SOMEONE MADE A TIMELY APPEAR-ANCE.


IN OTHER WORDS, SHE TRIED TO BE YOUR IDEAL GIRL THIS TIME.
WHEN SHE SHED THE FACTITIOUS SKIN CALLED DOLIS, SHE WAS SO VULNER-ABLE AND EMPTY THAT SHE SOUGHT ANOTHER SKIN IN YOU.


SHE'LL EVENTUALLY GROW OLD, WHILE THE DOLIS IN THE PICTURE WILL REMAIN A YOUNG GIRL FOREVER...
I'M SURE SHE HAS LONG SINCE BECOME AWARE OF IT.

"TELL ME ABOUT ME."
"HEY..."
THERE'S A LIMIT TO BEING "DOLIS." SHE HAD TO FIND THE NEXT THING...
OTHER-WISE, SHE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REPEAT ALL THOSE OTHER ANXIOUS DAYS.


BUT SHE'S NOT A FOOL.
SOON SHE'LL REALIZE THE FACT...
THAT IT IS NOT YOU WHO CAN GIVE HER WHAT SEE NEEDS.
BECAUSE...
AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, YOU COULD END UP GOING DOWN WITH HER.
YOU'LL NEVER BECOME HER SAVIOR, AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN WHO YOU ARE TODAY.
...YOU ARE NOTHING.
FROM THE FIRST, "DOLIS" ISN'T SOME-THING THAT COULD BE REPLACED.
IT'S A WARNING.
"WHAT IF I'M NOT DOLIS?"
SHE BECAME TOO CLOSE TO DOLIS.

THE GUY HAD TOLD ME A SIMPLE STORY.

HER INTELLIGENCE IS HER DOWNFALL.

IN HER HEART, SHE MIGHT KNOW THAT ALREADY.

I THOUGHT A BIT...

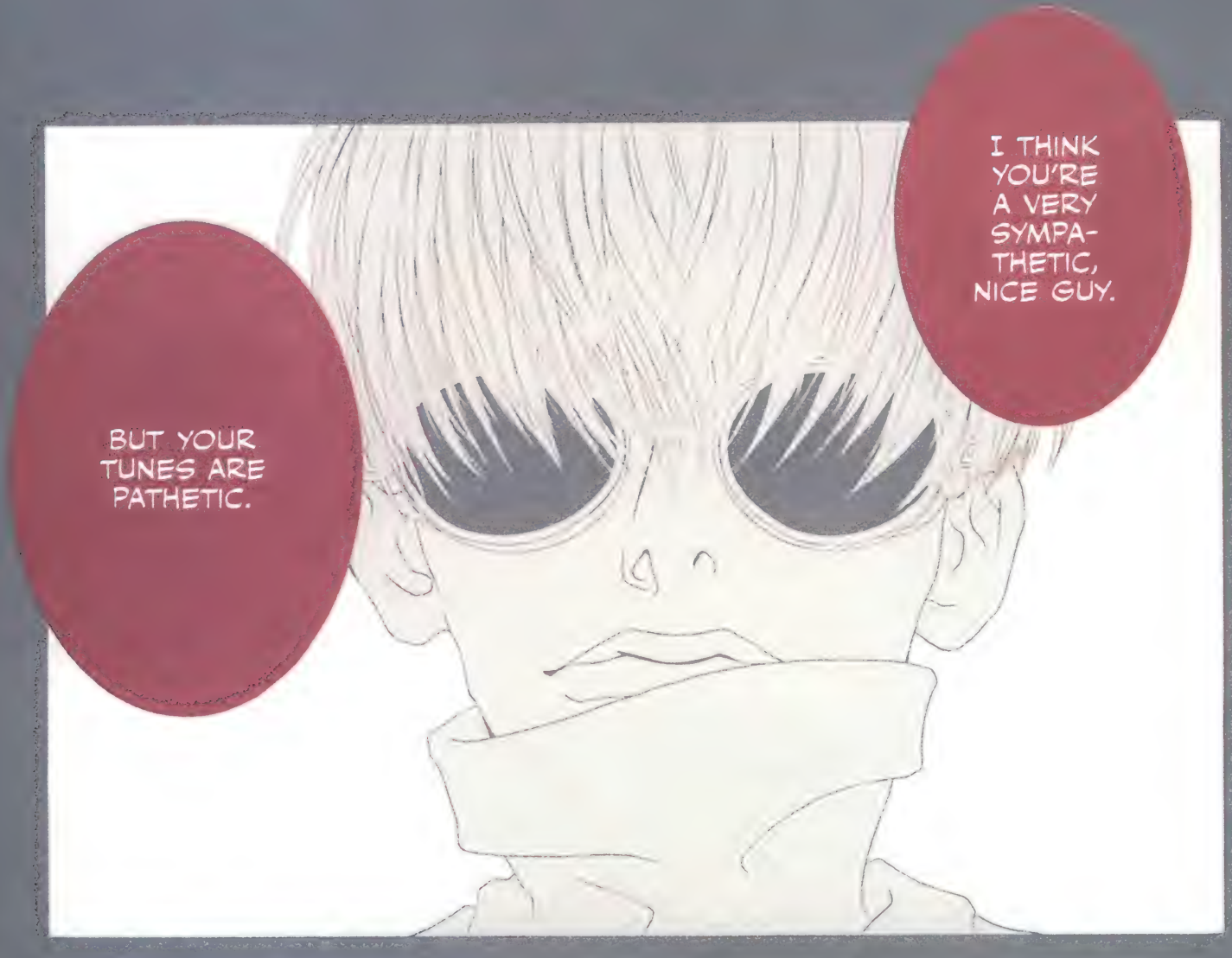
...BUT I JUST TOLD MITSU I HAD MET HIM.

MITSU AND I DIDN'T TALK ABOUT IT AFTER ALL.

#12 End

HI, KOZO.

Dolis #13


I THINK YOU'RE A VERY SYMPA-THETIC, NICE GUY.
BUT YOUR TUNES ARE PATHETIC.

HOLD A PISTOL, LIKE THIS...

NO, NOT LIKE THAT.

RIGHT ON THE CENTER OF HIS FOREHEAD...

YEAH, BANG ON.

...I'M SUFFERING FROM A DELUSION THAT WON'T LEAVE MY HEAD.

THOUGH I'M NOT THE TYPE WHO'S TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH HIMSELF...

BLOW IT OUT

ELEGANTLY, ELASTICALLY AND EXQUISITELY

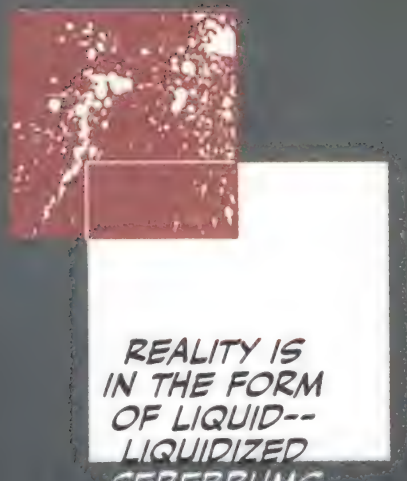
LIKE A BALLERINA.

敢死画

THE MOMENT...

...FLOODED WITH DUPLICATED IMAGES...

...BEING THROWN INTO ECSTASY...



REALITY IS IN THE FORM OF LIQUID-- LIQUIDIZED CEREBRUMS THAT SPATTER ACROSS THE WALL.

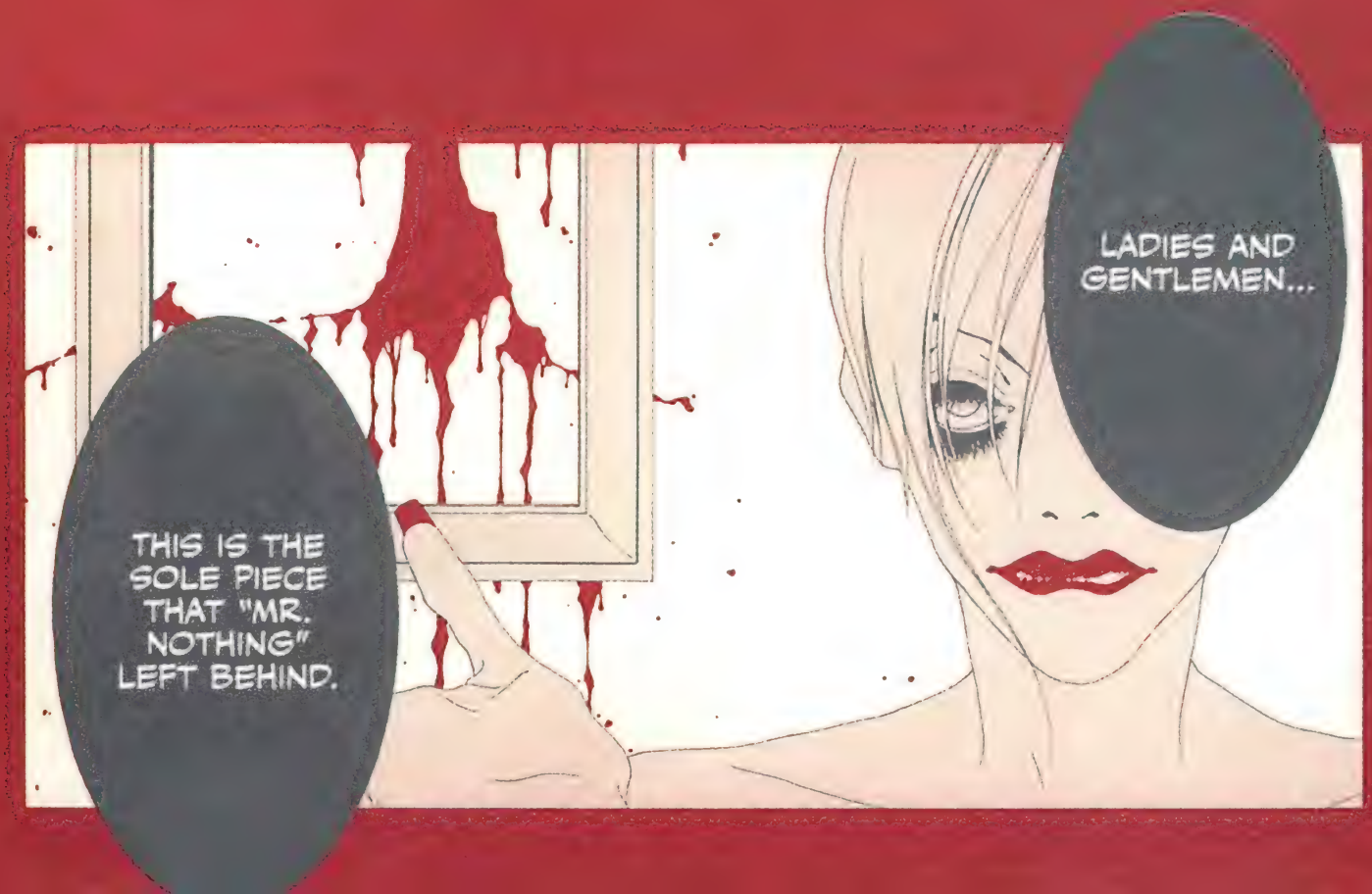
PICTORIAL BLASPHEMY!!

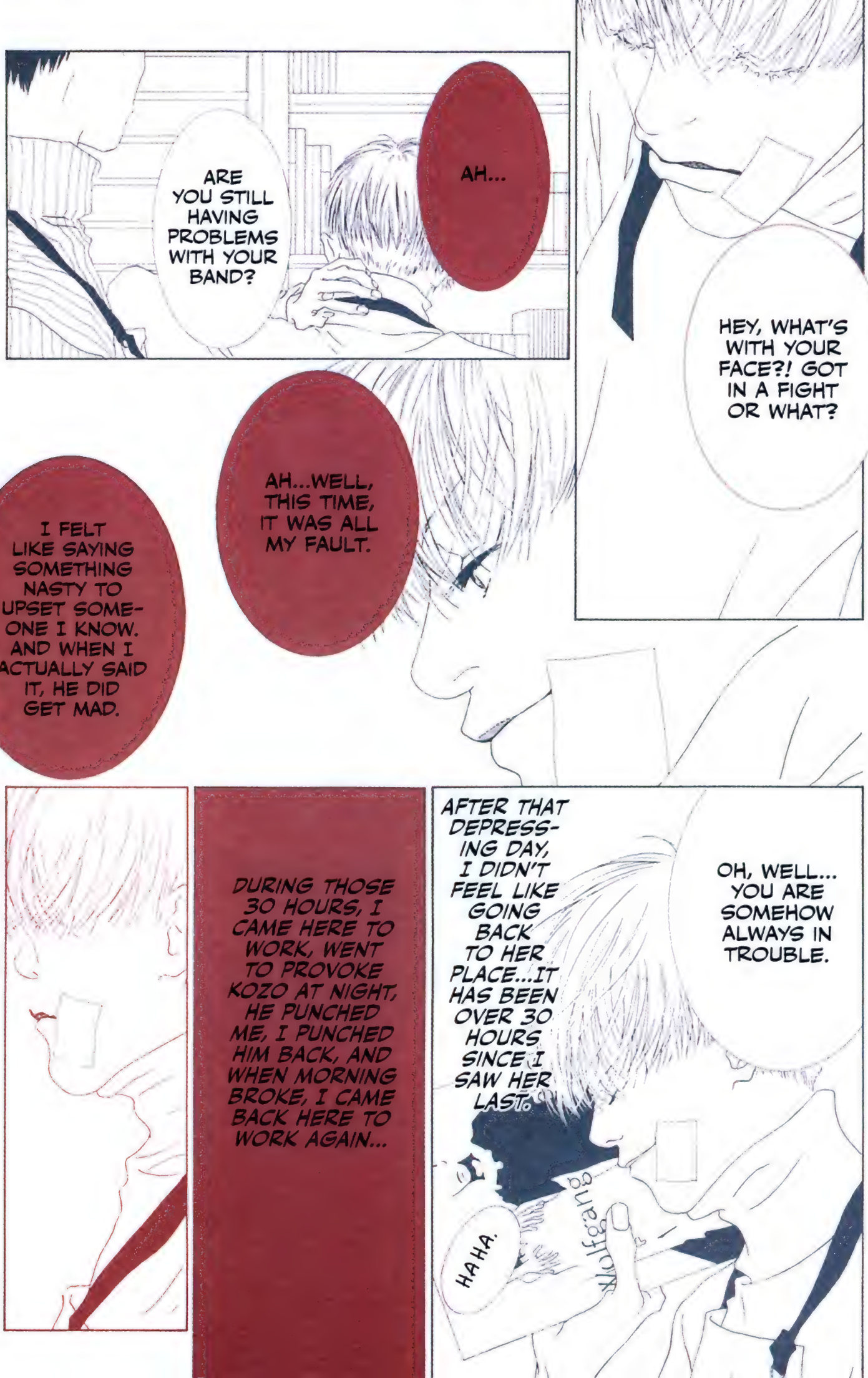
THERE YOU ENTER GRAVELY.

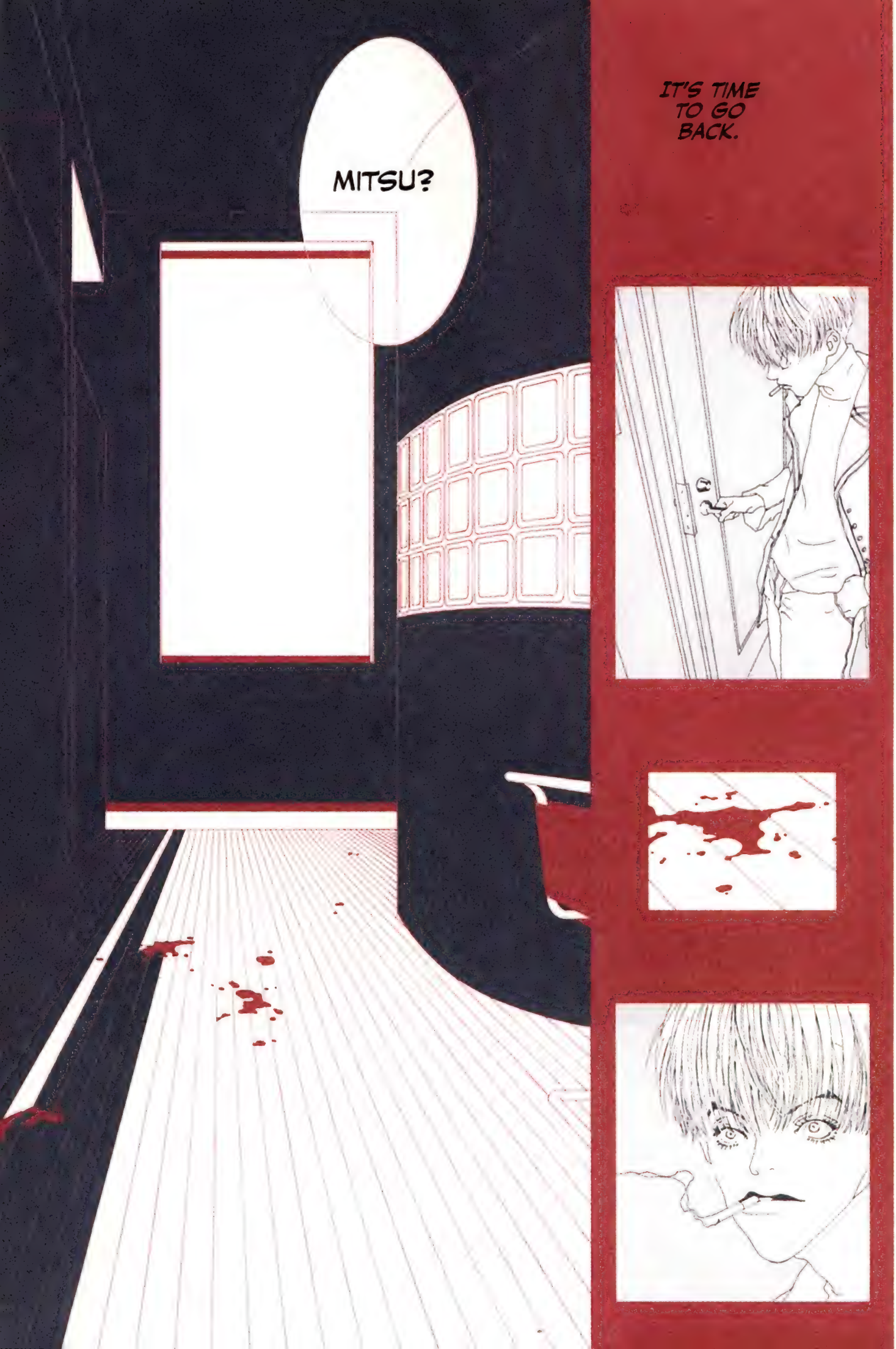
YOU HANG A FRAME ON THE BLOOD-STAINED WALL...

...WITH THEATRICAL MOTIONS, STARTING LIKE THIS...

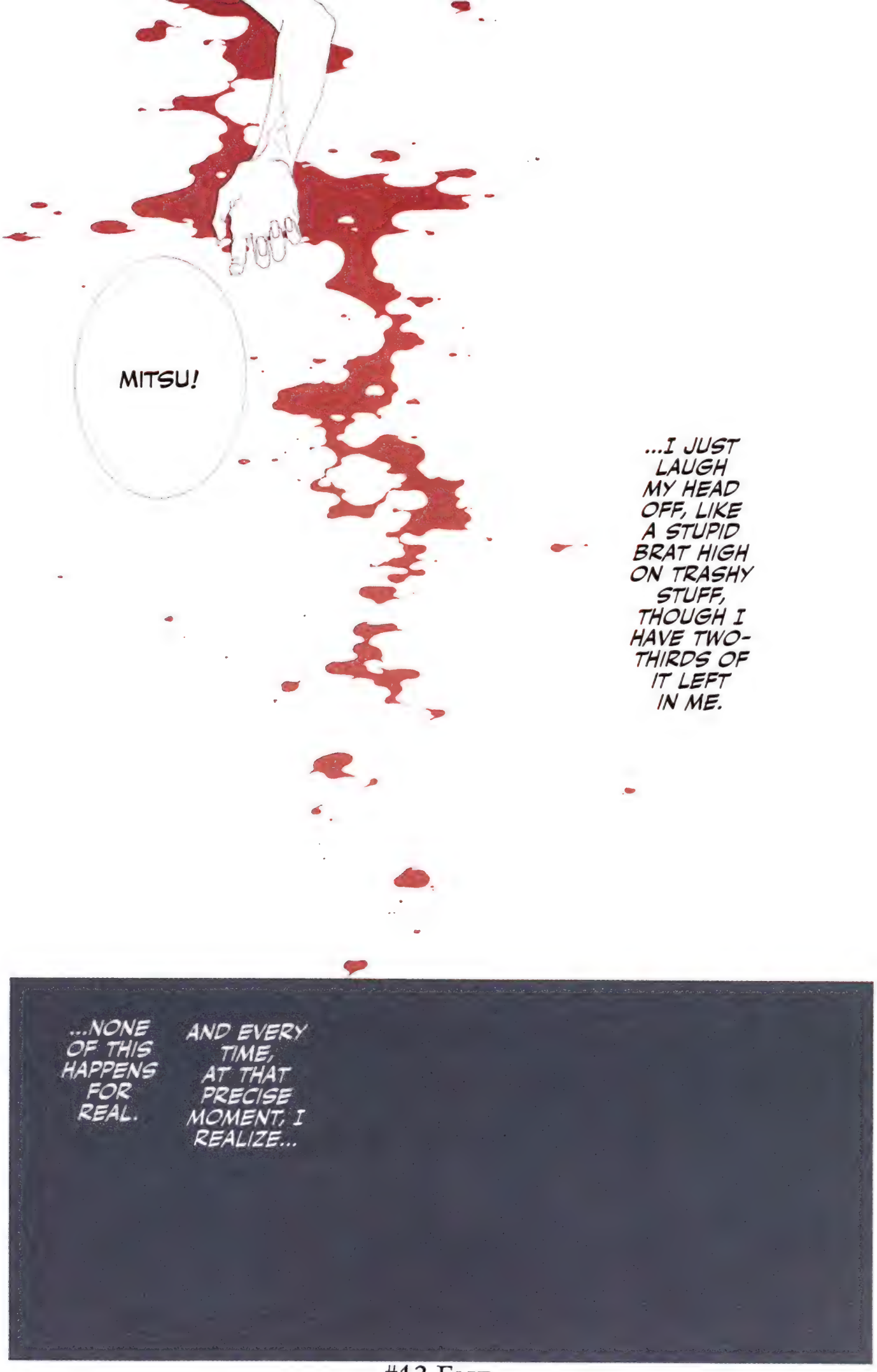
"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN..."




ARE YOU STILL HAVING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR BAND?
AH...
HEY, WHAT'S WITH YOUR FACE?! GOT IN A FIGHT OR WHAT?
AH...WELL, THIS TIME, IT WAS ALL MY FAULT.
I FELT LIKE SAYING SOMETHING NASTY TO UPSET SOMEONE I KNOW. AND WHEN I ACTUALLY SAID IT, HE DID GET MAD.
DURING THOSE 30 HOURS, I CAME HERE TO WORK, WENT TO PROVOKE KOZO AT NIGHT, HE PUNCHED ME, I PUNCHED HIM BACK, AND WHEN MORNING BROKE, I CAME BACK HERE TO WORK AGAIN...
AFTER THAT DEPRESSING DAY, I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE GOING BACK TO HER PLACE...IT HAS BEEN OVER 30 HOURS SINCE I SAW HER LAST.
OH, WELL... YOU ARE SOMEHOW ALWAYS IN TROUBLE.
HAHA.
Wolfgang


MITSU?
IT'S TIME TO GO BACK.

MY DELUSION HAS A SEQUEL...
MITSU!
AS YOU ARE THERE IN ALL YOUR DIGNITY AND DIVINE BEAUTY...

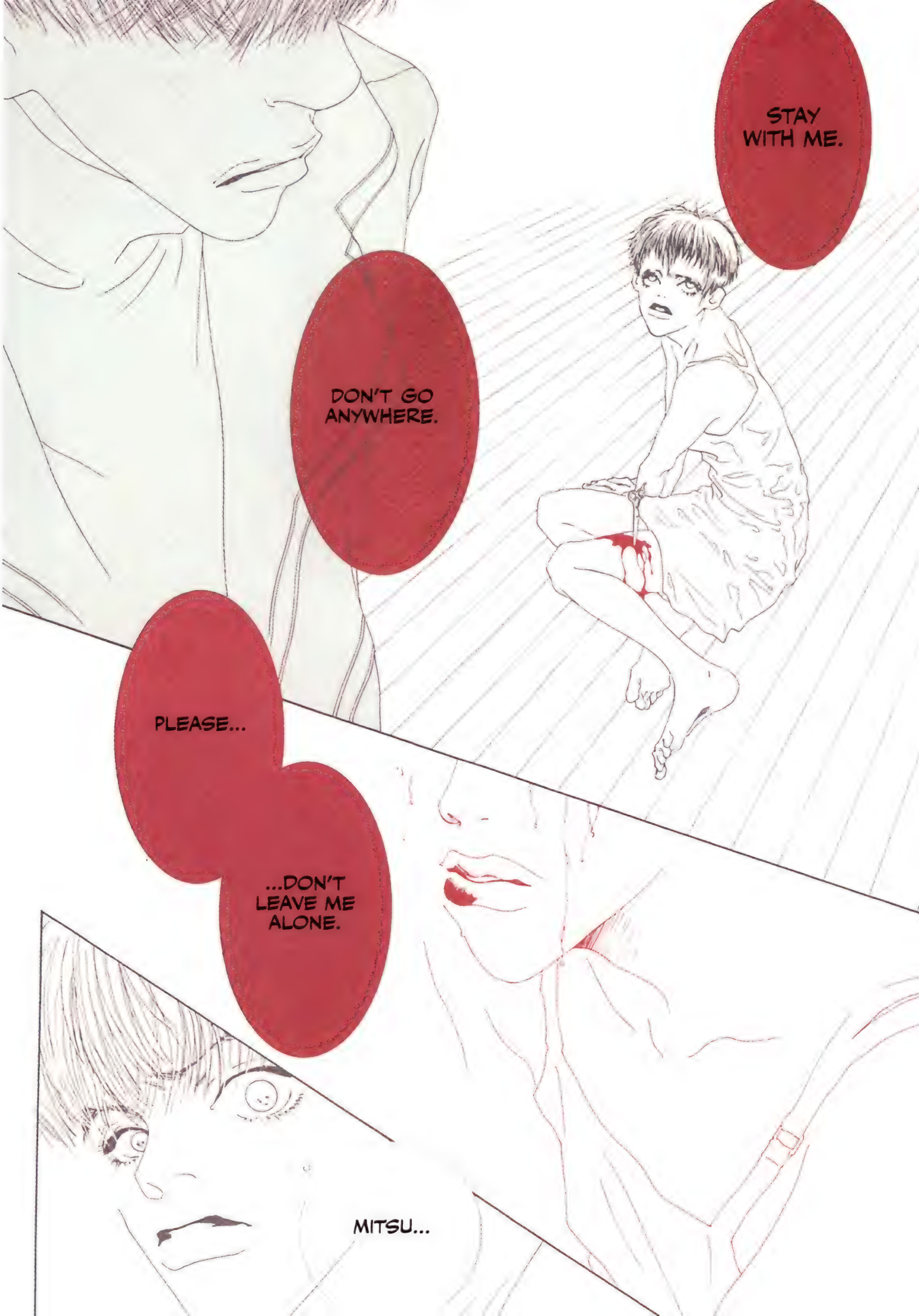

MITSU!
...I JUST LAUGH MY HEAD OFF, LIKE A STUPID BRAT HIGH ON TRASHY STUFF, THOUGH I HAVE TWO-THIRDS OF IT LEFT IN ME.
...NONE OF THIS HAPPENS FOR REAL.
AND EVERY TIME, AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, I REALIZE...

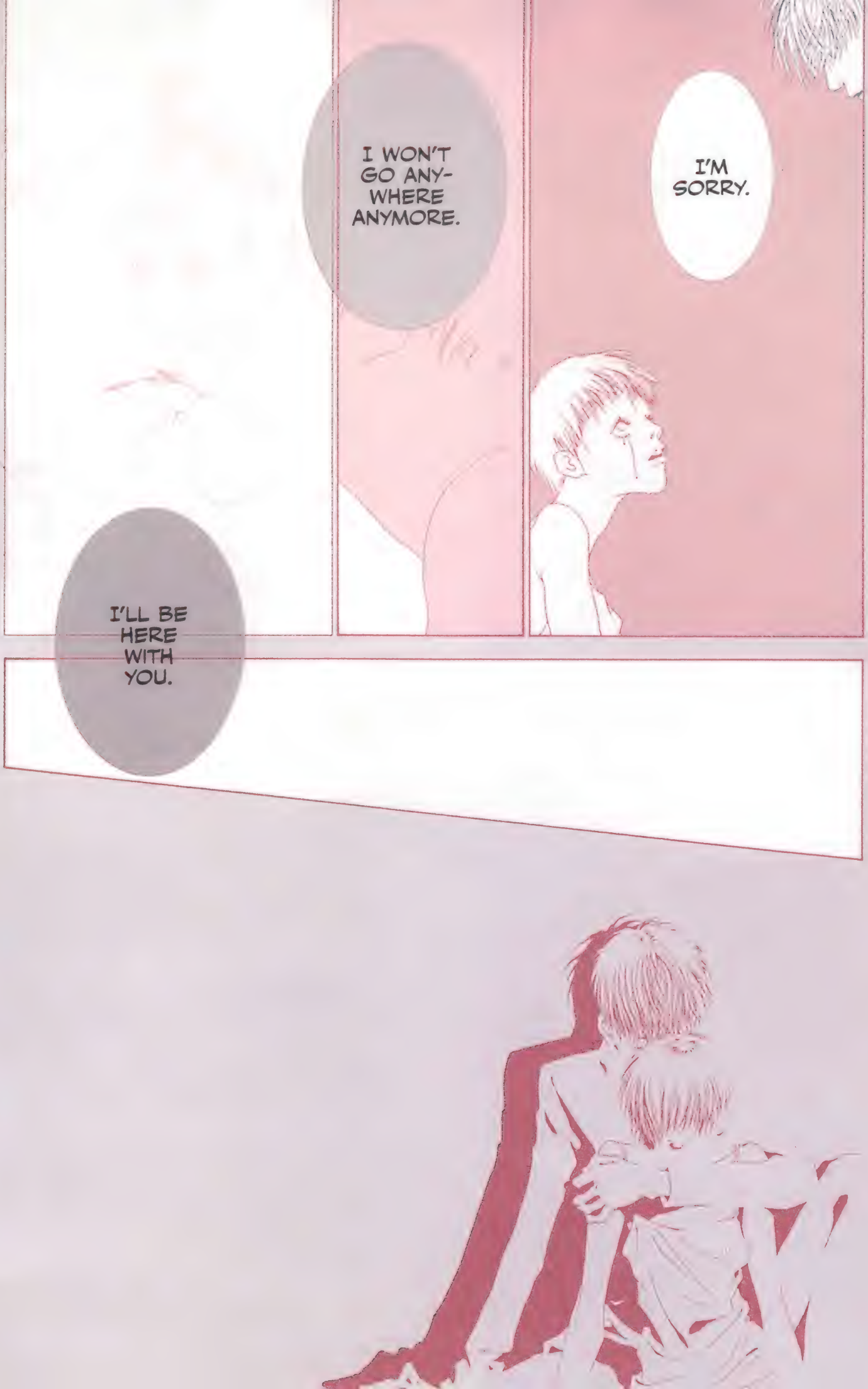
#13 End

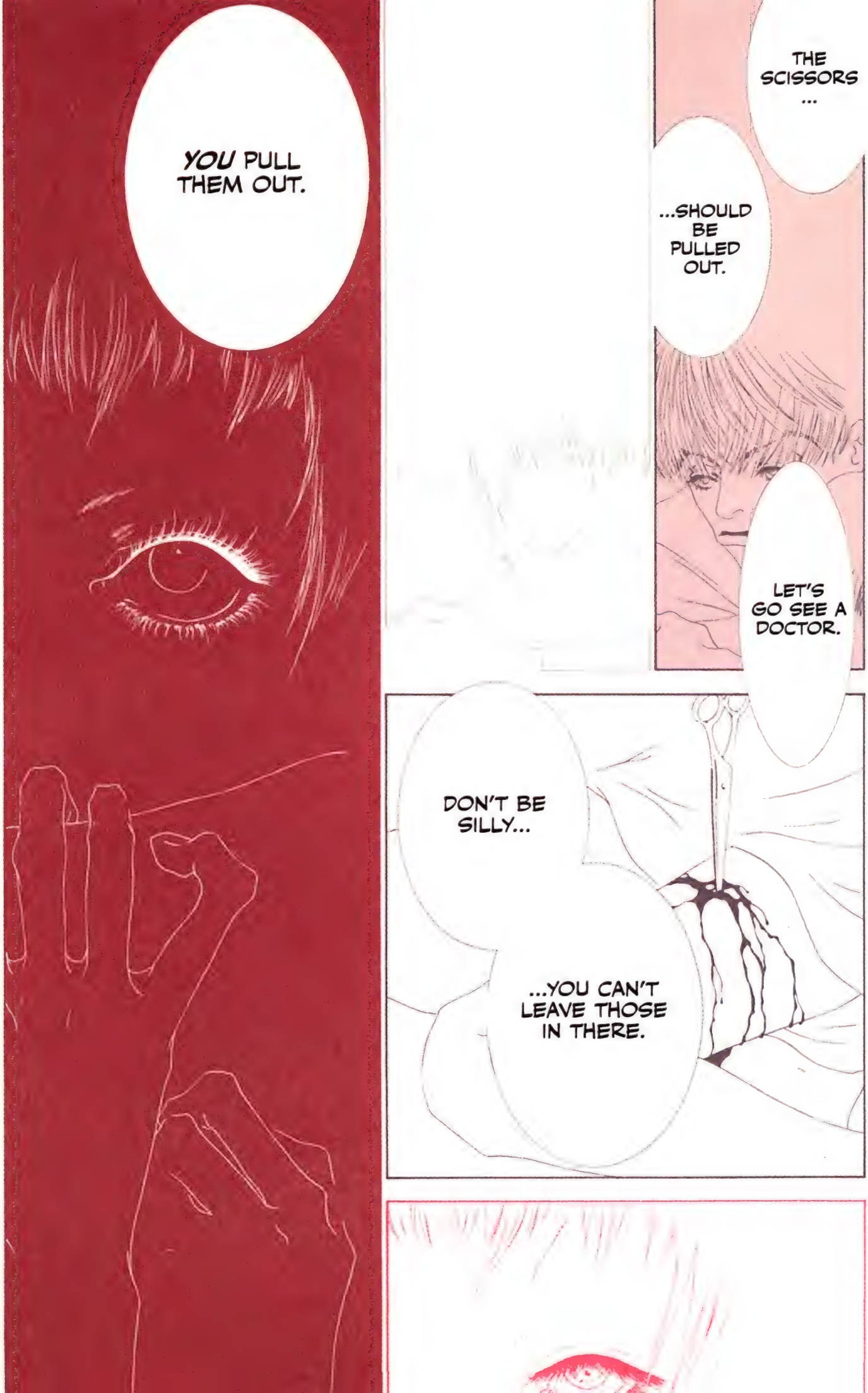
Dolis #14

MITSU!

I FEEL AS IF I WAS PUDDING SMOTHERED IN CREAM...
WHAT?
JESUS! WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO TO YOURSELF?!
MY BLOOD DOESN'T KNOW WHERE TO GO.
OKAY... SHIT...
STOP THE BLEEDING FIRST.
NO! WE HAVE TO CALL AN AMBULANCE FIRST!
NO, DON'T!


STAY WITH ME.
DON'T GO ANYWHERE.
PLEASE...
...DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.
MITSU...


I'M SORRY.
I WON'T GO ANY-WHERE ANYMORE.
I'LL BE HERE WITH YOU.


YOU PULL THEM OUT.
THE SCISSORS ...
...SHOULD BE PULLED OUT.
LET'S GO SEE A DOCTOR.
DON'T BE SILLY...
...YOU CAN'T LEAVE THOSE IN THERE.

THIS ROOM IS AIR-CONDITIONED PERFECTLY...

NOW WE ARE ALL ALONE IN THE WORLD, INSULATED INSIDE THIS SECURE ROOM, FALLING ASLEEP LIKE TWIN FETUSES CUDDLING TOGETHER INSIDE A WOMB.

UNDER THE POISONOUS SUN RAYS, 3,800 PROPHETS ARE MARCHING OUTSIDE.

TRANSISTOR RADIO HAS ANNOUNCED THE END OF THE WORLD INSTEAD OF THE THREE O'CLOCK NEWS.

NOW WE ARE ALL ALONE IN THE WORLD, INSULATED INSIDE THIS SECURE ROOM, FALLING ASLEEP LIKE TWIN FETUSES CUDDLING TOGETHER INSIDE A WOMB.

UNDER THE POISONOUS SUN RAYS, 3,800 PROPHETS ARE MARCHING OUTSIDE.

TRANSISTOR RADIO HAS ANNOUNCED THE END OF THE WORLD INSTEAD OF THE 3 O'CLOCK NEWS.

SINCE THAT DAY, WE HARDLY EVER STEPPED OUTSIDE.

#14 End

NOT THAT IT MATTERS.

WE DID THAT LAST WEEK. OR MAYBE IT WAS THE LAST MONTH.

WAIT, WAIT-WAIT-WAIT-WAIT-WAIT. LET ME CALM DOWN.

I WONDER IF I'LL MAKE IT IN TIME.

PAPER PLATES AND PAPER CUPS... (GET ME THE GAUDY ONES--SHOCKING-PINK AND LOUD STAR PATTERNS WILL DO.) KNIVES AND FORKS. AND DON'T FORGET A CHAINSAW.

WHAT A BLUNDER!...

FRIDAY THE 13TH. THE ANNIVERSARY OF THAT UNFORTUNATE MASSACRE.

WHAT DAY IS TODAY?

DAMN IT! I'D BETTER START PREPARING FOR A PARTY RIGHT NOW.

BECAUSE I-DON'T-WISH-IT.

IT WAS EVEN A GREAT CHANCE TO SEVER TIES FROM CIGARETTES--BUT I CANNOT CUT OFF MY LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH NICOTINE.

THE DAY WHEN WE SEVERED TIES FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD...

BUT WHEN WAS THAT?

.....

WHAT WAS I TALKING ABOUT?

Dolls #15

NO WONDER I FEEL SUFFOCATED WHEN I'M WITH HER. GOD BLESS HER!

IS SHE KEEPING WATCH OVER ME SO THAT I WON'T GO ASTRAY?

WITHOUT A BREAK, REMAINING HOUSEBOUND...

NOT ONLY TODAY BUT YESTERDAY, THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, AND DAYS BEFORE THAT...

I WONDER WHY SHE'S ALWAYS IN MY SIGHT...

SHE'S PRETTY GORGEOUS, BUT NO EYEBROWS.

WHO'S THIS GIRL? THE ONE WHO'S BEEN DANCING BESIDE ME...

NO, IT'S NOT. IT'S DIFFERENT FROM SOMETHING I'VE HEARD BEFORE.

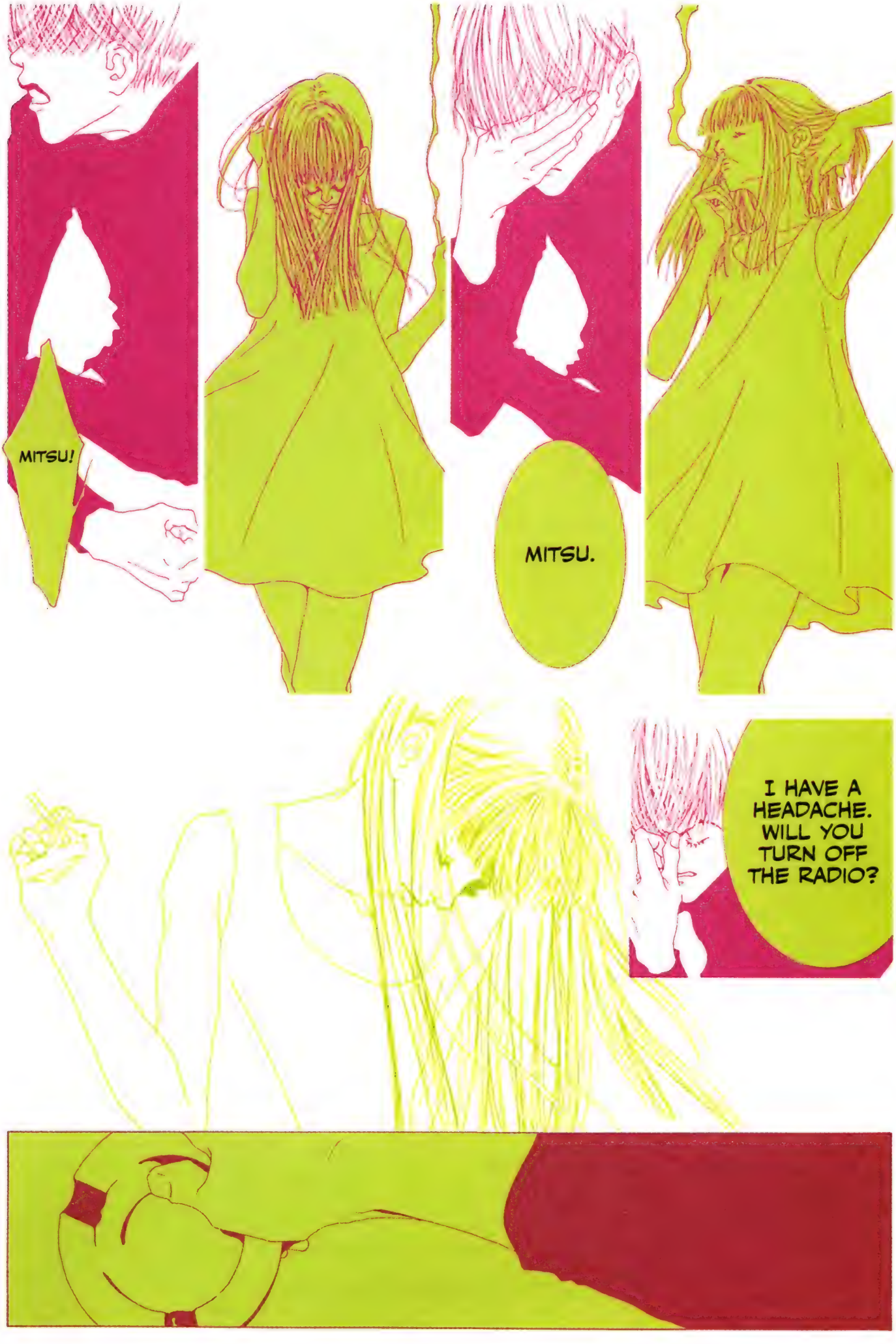
X-RAY SPECS?

OH, WAIT A SECOND. WHAT WAS THIS SONG?

BY THE WAY...HOW DOES LOVE DIFFER FROM HATE?

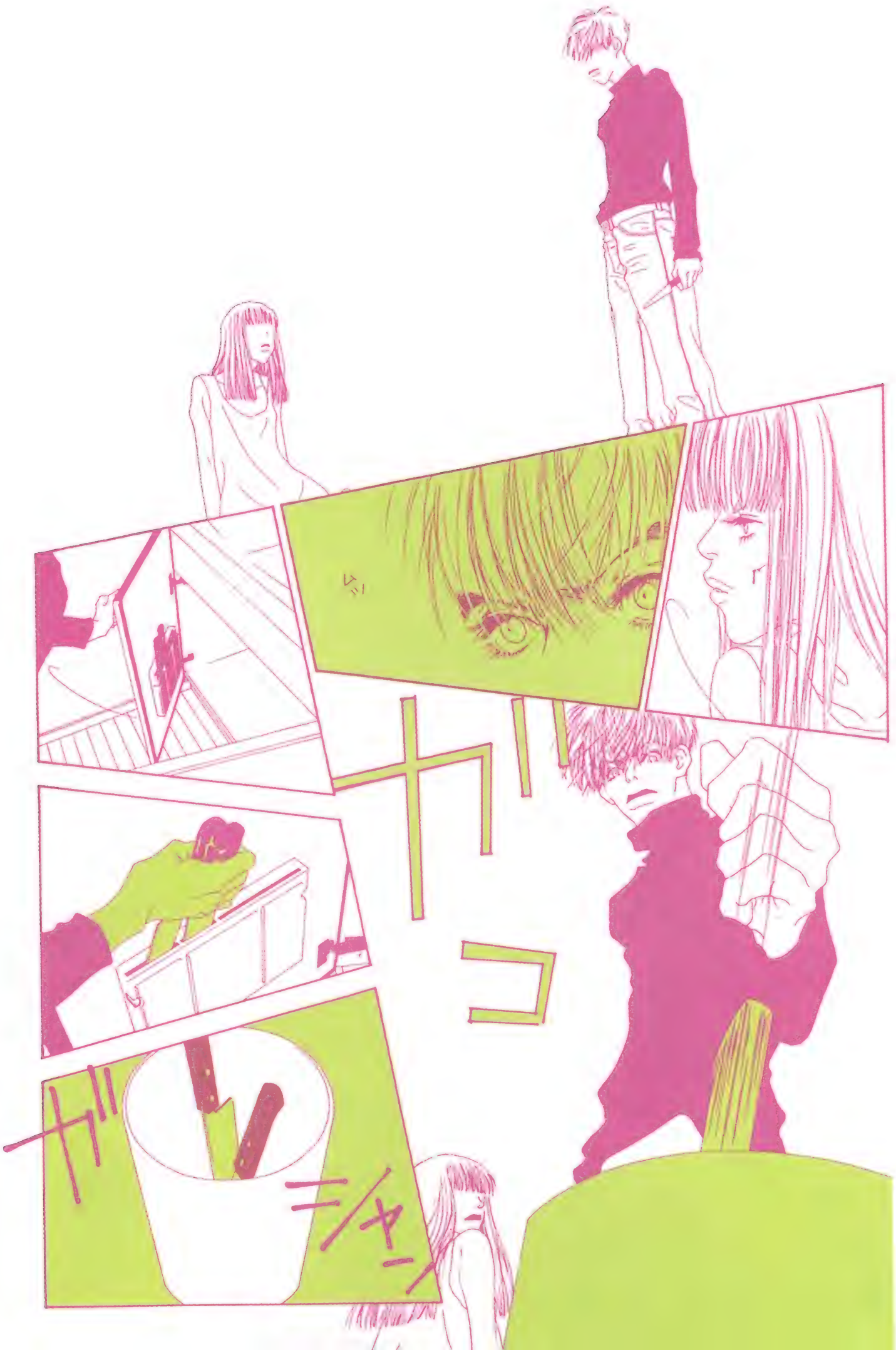
AH, I REMEMBER. I THINK I LOVED HER. LOVE. LOVED HER. THAT'S RIGHT. THAT'S IT. I LOVE HER. YEP.

AM I FORGETTING SOMETHING?


MITSU!
MITSU.
I HAVE A HEADACHE. WILL YOU TURN OFF THE RADIO?

STO-

I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
PLEASE DON'T DO THAT.
WHY DO YOU HURT YOURSELF?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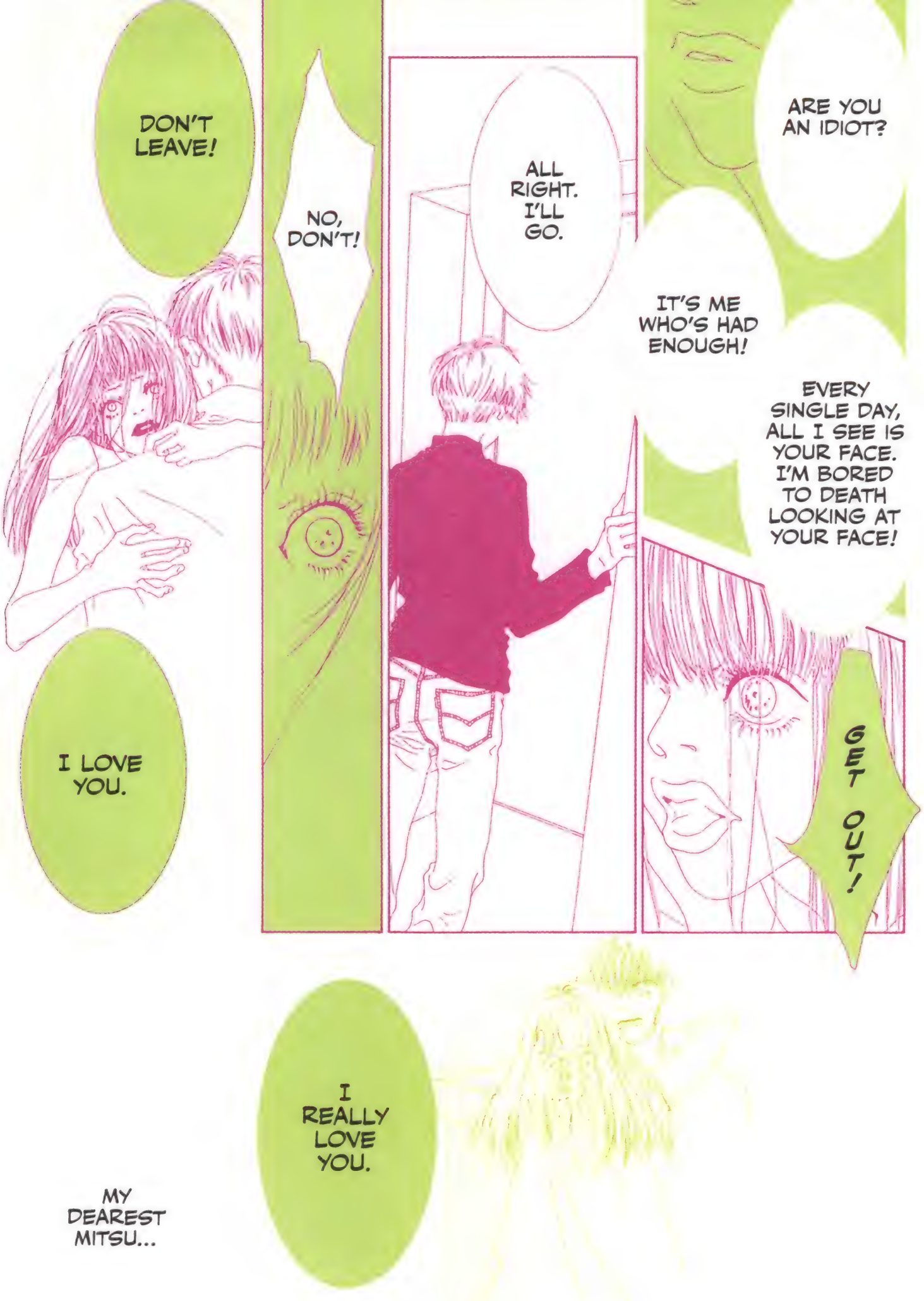
NOW YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ANYMORE.


DON'T LEAVE!
NO, DON'T!
ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO.
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
IT'S ME WHO'S HAD ENOUGH!
EVERY SINGLE DAY, ALL I SEE IS YOUR FACE. I'M BORED TO DEATH LOOKING AT YOUR FACE!
GET OUT!
I LOVE YOU.
I REALLY LOVE YOU.
MY DEAREST MITSU...

I LOVE YOU ALL THE MORE.

THOUGH I KNOW THE WORDS YOU LOVE ME ARE NOT GENU-INE ...

MITSU, MY SWEET HONEY--

THEN SOMEDAY, SOMETIME, I MIGHT BE SEIZED WITH AN IRRESISTIBLE IMPLUSE TO SMASH IT TO THE CONCRETE FLOOR OR BATTER IT WITH A STEEL PIPE.

CARESS-ING YOUR BEAUTI-FULLY SHAPED HEAD LIKE A JEWEL IN MY HANDS...

...I HOLD YOU TIGHT...

AS I LOVE YOU SO BADLY...

MITSU DIED THREE DAYS AFTER I THREW AWAY ALL HER KNIVES.

#15 End

Dolis #16

HEY, DON'T STAY IN THE SUN SO LONG, YOU'LL HAVE A SUNSTROKE...

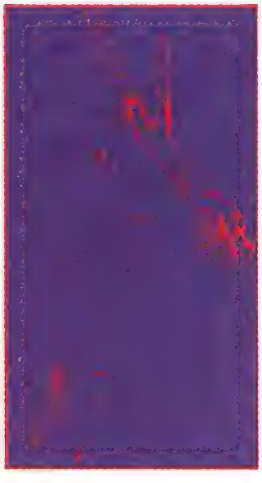
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT OUT OF THE BLUE.

I DIDN'T EVEN IMAGINE AN ENDING LIKE THIS.

IF WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO PUT AN END TO OUR RELATIONSHIP BY OURSELVES, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OKAY WITH ME, NO MATTER HOW TRAGIC IT WAS.

I THOUGHT WE'D BREAK UP ORDINARILY LIKE MANY OTHER ORDINARY LOVERS DO--OR, EVEN IF THE WORST HAPPENED, IT WOULD END UP WITH US KILLING EACH OTHER.

NEVERTHELESS...



AS USUAL,

WE GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT OVER NOTHING.

AS USUAL,

YOU SCREAMED.

AS USUAL,

WE RAILED AGAINST EACH OTHER.

THEN WHAT WAS UNUSUAL WAS THAT

YOU RAN OUT OF OUR ROOM IN A FIT OF ANGER,

ONTO THE ASPHALT WHICH YOU STEPPED ON FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ALMOST THIRTY DAYS,

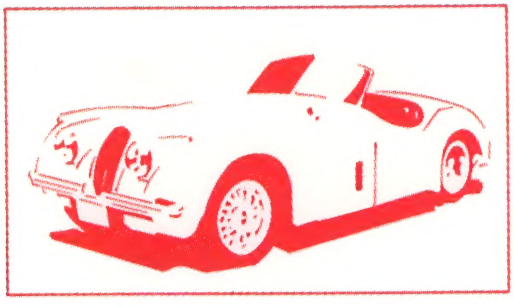
BEING HIT BY A '51 JAGUAR.

IT WAS MORE LIKE YOU PLUNGED TOWARD THE CAR RATHER THAN BEING HIT BY IT.

AS IF YOU DIDN'T EVEN SEE THAT BULKY OLD-FASHIONED SILVER MACHINE

IMMACULATELY POLISHED THERE AT ALL...

AN AWESOME DIVE--



YOU WERE INCREDIBLE!

IF IT WAS

AN ORDINARY, LESS IMPRESSIVE CAR,

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN HIT BY IT, WOULD YOU?

BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T HAVE SUITED YOU.

I COULDN'T MAKE IT
IN THE END.

I COULDN'T GET
AWAY WITH YOU.

YOU WERE ALONE UP
TO THE END.

I COULD NEVER TOUCH
YOU IN ANY REAL WAY.

NOT EVEN ONCE.

FROM THE DREAM,

FROM THE HOPE,

FROM THE FUTURE,

FROM THE REALITY.

EVEN THOUGH
YOU WERE JUST
BESIDE ME.

I THOUGHT SHE LOOKED LIKE MITSU A BIT, THEN I THOUGHT SHE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE HER AT ALL.

IT WAS AN EARLY SUNDAY MORNING. THERE WAS NO ONE IN THE LOUNGE. I TURNED THE TV ON. AN ARTIST NAMED NAKAZAWA SO-AND-SO WAS SPEAKING ABOUT SOMETHING. THE PROGRAM SEEMED TO BE A CASUAL INTERVIEW IN HIS HOUSE. THERE WAS A WOMAN WHO I ASSUMED TO BE HIS WIFE SEATED NEXT TO HIM INDIFFERENTLY.

I SWITCHED IT OFF.

BUT I GUESS THAT REALLY DIDN'T MATTER.

SHE WAS WEARING A TIGHT-FITTING, LONG-SLEEVED BLOUSE, THOUGH IT LOOKED A BIT STRANGE ON THIS MUGGY SUMMER DAY.

IT WAS NOT BAD TO KEEP REGULAR HOURS AT THE CENTER. AT LEAST IT HELPED POSTPONE SOMETHING.

AFTER MITSU'S DEATH, I COULD HARDLY EAT ANYTHING FOR A WHILE.

IT WAS THE WORST TIMING EVER WHEN MY FATHER HAPPENED TO COME BY TO SEE HIS HOPELESS SON. HE WAS APPALLED BY MY APPEARANCE. I LOOKED LIKE A KID ABOUT TO DIE OF STARVATION.

SO I RELUCTANTLY PACKED MY STUFF AND ENTERED THE REHABILITATION CENTER BY THE SEA TO MAKE MY FAMILY HAPPY.

AND I REMINISCED ABOUT MYSELF AND THE TIME WHEN I USED TO THINK EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD WOULD WORK OUT JUST THE WAY I WANTED.

HEY, MITSU, HOW CAN I SPEND TODAY, TOMORROW, THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, AND THE COUNTLESS DAYS TO COME WITHOUT YOU?

THE END